Date: April 10, 2013

To: College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

From: Carter Smith, Chair
Department of Foreign Languages

Re: Department name change

On December 6, 2012, the Department of Foreign Languages discussed and approved a motion to change our department’s name from Foreign Languages to the Department of Languages.

The rationale behind this proposal is as follows: We offer both Ojibwe and Spanish language and culture courses in our department. Neither can be considered “foreign” to the population of the United States. Discussion took place regarding a possible change to World Languages. However, there are more than 6,000 languages worldwide. We offer courses in just 11 of them. Finally, there was discussion about Modern Languages. However, we offer Ancient Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. None of these can be considered as modern.

After discussion the department voted to adopt the Department of Languages. It is direct, simple and, from our perspective all-inclusive and descriptive of what we do, which is teach languages from various perspectives (linguistic, cultural, social, historical, etc.) This requested change also reflects a concerted effort that we are currently undertaking to make curricular connections across campus with other disciplines under the idea that “We are not so foreign anymore!”

We would request approval of this proposal so that the change would be effective fall of 2014.