REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:
From the Department of Foreign Languages: 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!"

“Department of Languages” more accurately reflects the content and activities supported by the Department of Foreign Languages. We in APC concur with the Department’s perspective that the change in department name is “direct, simple, and…all-inclusive of what [they] do…. This proposed change in department name also supports cross-campus collaboration and integration.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Some of the language and culture courses offered are not “foreign” in the US.
2. Provides for better integration with other disciplines.
3. We appreciate the department’s awareness of inclusivity and the action they’re taking.

Pros of Recommendation: see above

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:

Rename the “Department of Foreign Languages” to the “Department of Languages.”
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of __9__ for to __0__ against on September 17, 2013

recommends that the “Department of Foreign Languages” be renamed to the “Department of Languages.”

Implementation Date: Fall 2014 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office