

To: Faculty Senate

From: Spanish Program T/TT Faculty (Kathleen Connolly, Patricia Giménez-Eguibar, Jaime Marroquín)

Date: May 18, 2017

Re: Spanish Language B.A. proposed B.A. changes

New General Education Curriculum and Spanish B.A.

Context. The Modern Languages Department (ML) Faculty and Carol Harding, had a meeting on 4/21 with Provost Scheck to discuss possible changes within the Department's curriculum, specifically the possibility of developing a single B.A. and major for all modern languages. The reason for these suggested changes is the low enrollment of the German major and minor, as well as the lower enrolled French minor. After deliberations, the Spanish Program has decided to maintain a completely separated B.A. in Spanish and not merge it with an all-encompassing ML B.A.

The reasons behind this decision are:

- There is no evidence that would support the idea that merging our different language programs into a single B.A. would help to increase French and German enrollment numbers.
- The primary goal of a language major is fluency and mastery of a language and the associated cultural, philological, linguistic and social components. A combined ML major would not work towards that goal effectively. Such a measure would damage the academic quality of the Spanish degree, which has healthy numbers and will keep increasing as more and more Hispanic students attend our institution. As the unofficial second language of the U.S., Spanish provides our students with the linguistic and cultural competence necessary to best promote a multicultural, diverse, prosperous and enlightened society, particularly in Oregon's Willamette Valley, with its large and expanding Spanish-speaking population. A robust and independent Spanish program is a telling index of how truly committed WOU is to diversity as an institutional priority, as stated in WOU's 2017-2023 Strategic Framework.
- In our meeting with Provost Scheck there were questions raised regarding the practicality of a Spanish major. However, job market trends show that there is an increasing demand for certified Spanish speakers. Over the last decade, Oregon government agencies have been adding more and more accredited bilingual employees to their staff and rewarding them with 5% salary differentials; bilingual language and cultural literacy provides comparable advantages in several other job markets.
- In addition to our viable degree and numbers (see below), the Spanish Program provides indispensable service to the University (Willamette Promise) and the College of Education (Bilingual Education). As an example of the quality work our experience faculty provides, the Willamette Promise Spanish test has credit value for OSU whereas other WP tests in other disciplines have not yet been accepted.

The Spanish faculty support the study of French and German at WOU. However, we cannot support a change that is unlike to solve the enrollment problems with German and French and would probably jeopardize our program and potentially limit our students' Spanish-language growth. We are open to working with the administration to find better ways to increase enrollment for German and French. A possible option would be for the Humanities Division to consider adding German and French as concentration areas in the Humanities Major.

Majors/minor in Spanish

(3 TT and 4 NTT)

Year	Majors	Minors
2016	40	43
2015	16*	31
2014	50*	30
2013	42*	28

Minors in French (2 NTT)

Year	Minors
2016	12
2015	14

2014	12
2013	0

Majors/minors in German
(1 TT and 1 NTT)

Year	Majors	Minors
2016	2*	3
2015	3*	4
2014	2*	5
2013	5*	3

*This number does not include double majors or education majors with focus in Spanish/German