

Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) Viability Review of the Reorganization of the Foreign Language/Linguistics Department

Introduction

The goals of the Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) Academic Senate's Viability Review process are to assure that the College's various programs and disciplines are responsive to the needs of LAMC students and the community it serves and adhere to the school Mission and its Educational Master Plan. More specifically, this committee has been requested to consider a recommendation from the Educational Planning Committee that the Foreign Language and Linguistics disciplines be combined with a larger department to assist them in long-term planning. The following report represents the findings of this committee regarding the proposed reorganization of the Foreign Language/Linguistics Department.

Foreign Language/Linguistics Department Viability Review Committee Recommendation:

Pursuant to Board rule 6803.10, and in conjunction with a recommendation made by EPC following the spring 2016 Comprehensive Program Review, the Viability Review Committee examined the possibility of combining the Foreign Language and Linguistics disciplines with other disciplines in a larger department. The committee examined the department's recent Comprehensive Program Reviews, the status of its Course Outlines, and a report from the SLO Coordinator on the status of SLOs. After deliberation, the committee concurred with the recommendation from EPC that Foreign Language and Linguistics would best be served by making them part of a larger department.

We therefore recommend that Academic Affairs take the necessary steps to combine Foreign Language and Linguistics with a larger department.

Reasons for Reorganization:

- The department is very small. It has, for years, consisted of at most two full-time faculty members. It appears that, starting next year, there will be only one full-time faculty, and he is only part way through the tenure evaluation process.
- As the department is so small, the chair is not contractually entitled to release time. This limits the time the chair can commit to non-classroom activities.

- Being part of a larger department would provide the support and assistance these disciplines need to thrive, to bring their Curricula and Learning Outcomes into compliance, to better plan for the future and document their plans and needs through Program Review, and to obtain the finances needed to achieve their objectives.

Further, the committee suggests that the most logical fit might be with DevCom/ESL/Learning Skills for the following reasons:

- Foreign Language and ESL both teach language-acquisition
- Foreign Language, DevCom, and ESL are similar disciplines that can benefit from sharing resources (such as a language learning lab)
- The other LACCD colleges similar in size to LAMC have combined Foreign Languages with ESL¹

Foreign Language/Linguistics Viability Committee Members

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¹ Harbor combines it with ESL and English
(<http://www.lahc.edu/classes/communications/index.html>)

West combines it with ESL, English, and Comm Studies (<http://www.wlac.edu/Language-Arts/Index.aspx>)

Southwest combines it with ESL and English (<http://www.lasc.edu/students/departments/efl/>)