

World Languages and Cultures Action Plan Unit Responses

On 3/8/17, 10:50 AM, "Trujillo, Juan Antonio" <jtrujillo@oregonstate.edu> wrote:

Hi Joan—

The World Languages and Cultures faculty met yesterday to discuss a number of important issues and I am writing to report on our conversation about the questions posed by the Curriculum Council.

1) Institutional Research.

We were asked if we had considered the impact on our ability to compile historical and cross-institutional research if we construct a new major that does not fit under current CIP numbers for language programs in French, German, and Spanish.

In response to the question posed by the Curriculum Council, I conducted an informal poll on the official listerv for language department chairs about the impact of using a CIP that is not language specific. The consensus of those who responded was that the data collection needed for accreditation and planning was not hindered by using the top-level 16.01 CIP number. The combining of separate language majors into a single degree is a nationwide phenomenon, and many of our peers will in fact be migrating to a non-language specific CIP as well. Half of our "next-level peers" referenced in our latest strategic plan (North Carolina State University-Raleigh, UC Riverside, and the University of Tennessee) offer combined language BAs with concentrations in specific languages just like the proposed WLC model.

2) Ecampus Degree Plans.

The WLC faculty wish to focus on reestablishing a culture of language study in on-campus programs and plans to concentrate its curriculum development efforts on courses that strengthen our language minors and move us toward full implementation of the WLC degree. Our immediate plan is to identify electives and requirements in the existing online majors in French, German, and Spanish that could be met with new WLC courses and begin an incremental shift in focus of our online degrees toward greater alignment with the WLC philosophy and content. We will be prepared within 3-5 years to then determine whether to keep separate online BA programs or shift to the unified major with concentrations in French, German, and Spanish, which we expect will cause very little disruption to operations such as student recruitment given the increase in program consolidations seen across the country. We also wish to point out that the WLC model allows for the creation of new concentrations in a much more expeditious manner since adding an Option does not require a full Category I proposal. We anticipate that Japanese, for example, may be ready for inclusion as an option within approximately 5 years, creating new opportunities for online students.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Juan A. Trujillo
Coordinator, World Languages and Cultures
School of Language, Culture, and Society