

## Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

### MEMO

To: Faculty Senate  
From: Colby Kervick, co-chair Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate  
Date: January 5, 2023  
Re: Approval of a no-contest termination of the B.A. in Russian and East European Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences

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The CAC unanimously approved a proposal to terminate the B.A. in Russian and East European Studies (REES) in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) due to low enrollment. The REES major has had an average of 1.8 students enrolled at any one time over the past five years. Specifically, the breakdown of students with a REES major, per year, is as follows:

- 2021-22 4 students
- 2020-21 4 students
- 2019-20 0 students
- 2018-19 1 student
- 2017-18 0 students

Not surprisingly, those low numbers have produced few graduates: specifically, there have been no graduates from the program, at all, in the last five years. There is little demand for the major at the present time.

The decline in interest in the program is in part due to the paucity of courses. With the retirement of Kevin McKenna in Russian language, Denise Youngblood in Russian history, and Shirley Gideon in Economics who had taught on Russian economic matters, there are far fewer faculty members teaching in the program now than there were in earlier years. In addition, J Dickinson in Anthropology is no longer able to regularly teach about Eastern Europe, due to her administrative roles. That leaves only three faculty member who regularly teach courses on the region: Michele Commercio (Political Science), Jon Huener (History), and Kat Scollins (Russian). There is simply no way to sustain a major with the few courses that those faculty offer in English. However, the minor in Russian and East European Studies will remain an option for students. Also students might consider pursuing a major in Russian or the Individually Designed Major in CAS.

Despite the lack of interest in the major, there is strong interest in what few courses there are in relating to the region. The termination of the REES major has no effect on faculty or staff positions. Nor will it have any effect on the remaining courses which currently count for the major in HST, POLS and WLIT; those have been popular across a range of majors and minors, and the proposer's anticipate that popularity continuing. Terminating the REES major may also funnel some students towards the Russian major, which allows students to combine advanced language study with some related English-language coursework on the region.

The unanimous faculty vote for no-contest termination in CAS occurred on 10/18/2022 and the proposal is supported by the CAS curriculum committee, the department chair and Dean.

If approved by the Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees, the changes will be implemented starting Fall 2023.