

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

To: The UVM Faculty Senate

From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair

Date: December 7, 2018

Re: Approval of a proposal to change the name of the Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics, College of Arts and Sciences

At its meeting on December 6, 2018, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal from the Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics (College of Arts and Sciences) to change the name of the department to the Department of Romance Languages.

In 2009, the Department of Communication Sciences (now Communication Sciences and Disorders) moved from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. At the time, the two linguists in that department moved to the Department of Romance Languages (subsequently renamed Romance Languages and Linguistics) along with the previously approved Linguistic Minor as the fit for linguistics within the health sciences was problematic. In 2010, the department launched a Linguistics major, which has grown significantly since then. Although Romance Languages provided a much-appreciated home for linguistics, the needs, curricula, and, for the most part, interests, of a humanities program and a social sciences program are different. This was noticed by the external reviewers during the department's recent Academic Program Review. The external reviewers recommended addressing the lack of intellectual coherence between the Romance Languages and the Linguistics tracks, and suggested splitting Romance Languages and Linguistics apart as a possible solution.

For these reasons, the department decided to establish a Linguistics Program, similar in structure to other programs housed outside specific departments (e.g. Neuroscience). The independence of both the Romance Languages Department and the Linguistics Program will allow faculty to better focus on the growth and development of both entities. This restructuring was supported by all faculty in the department and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who agreed to provide the necessary budgetary support, which is minimal. The CAC was also asked to consider the restructuring and voted in approval. Faculty involved in the Linguistics Program will retain their faculty appointments in the Department of Romance Languages, but may seek to change their primary faculty appointment to another CAS department at their discretion.

As a consequence of establishing a separate Linguistics Program, the department requested to change the name from the Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics to the Department of Romance Languages. The department code (currently RLL) will also be reverted to the previous code, ROM.