

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

MEMO

To: Faculty Senate
From: Colby Kervick, Co-Chair Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate
Date: 11/3/22
Re: Approval of a proposal from Department of German, College of Arts and Sciences and Graduate College for a no contest deactivation of the Master of Arts in German

The CAC voted to approve a request from the Department of German and Russian for a no-contest deactivation of the Master's degree in German due to low enrollment and a decline in applicants over the past seven years. The CAC vote was 15 in favor and 1 opposed. This request for a no contest deactivation to begin in AY 23-24 was initiated by the Chair of the Department of German and Russian on August 17, 2022. In the request memo Dr. Helga Schreckenberger noted the following rationale:

"The program has not attracted a sufficient number of applicants over the past seven years in order for us to offer a strong curriculum at the graduate level. We also cannot compete with programs that are able to provide students with scholarships and teaching assistantships. The German MA was established in 1949. It was very successful throughout the 1990s, and a number of our graduates went on to highly regarded Ph. D programs and to successful academic careers. The general decline in interest in foreign languages which resulted in the closing of a number of German programs at the high school and the college level has also impacted our MA program. Currently, there are no students enrolled in the program.

The only active graduate courses are:

GERM 390. Internship. 1-18 Credits.

GERM 391. Master's Thesis Research. 1-12 Credits.

GERM 392. Independent Study. 1-18 Credits.

GERM 394. Independent Graduate Research. 1-18 Credits.

GERM 396. Special Topics. 1-18 Credits.

GERM 397. Teaching Assistantship. 1-18 Credits.

These courses are not taught by any specific faculty member and can be easily deactivated without affecting our German undergraduate curriculum or the health of the German program. We regret having to take this step and hope to be able to revive the program with new curriculum that meets the needs of the current student population."

The two tenure-track faculty of the Department for German and Russian voted unanimously (2-0-0) to deactivate the program. The chair of the Department concurred with the decision. Additionally, there was a unanimous vote by the CAS Curriculum committee 9/7/22 followed by a unanimous CAS vote on 9/13/22 in support of the proposal to deactivate the Master's degree. The proposal was also supported by Dean Falls from CAS and Dean Forehand from the Graduate College.

The program currently has no students and has had only 4 applicants since 2011, with the last in 2016. Those 4 applicants were admitted and 2 matriculated, both in 2014. Since 2011, only three students have graduated with a German MA. If this proposal is approved by the Faculty Senate the Master's program in German would be deactivated beginning with the 23-24 catalog year.