

Board Meeting
January 21, 2010

ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Approve Establishment of the Department of Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends the establishment of the Department of Linguistics.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is proposing the creation of a School of Literatures, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics (LCSL) comprising the departments and programs of Classics and Mediterranean Studies; Germanic Studies; the Sandi Port Errant Language and Culture Learning Center; Slavic and Baltic Languages and Literatures; Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese; TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)/Linguistics; Moving Image Arts; and less commonly taught languages of Chinese, Japanese, and Hindi-Urdu. As part of this new structure, Linguistics, currently a unit within the Department of English, will once again form an independent department to be called the Department of Linguistics. Under the new structure, control of Chinese, Japanese, and Hindi-Urdu language courses will transfer from the Department of English to the newly formed Department of Linguistics.

Years ago, the Department of Linguistics was merged into larger departments to save administrative costs. The unit, however, has continued to thrive through its strong TESOL program: the Master of Arts in Linguistics is the second largest M.A.-producing program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Now that the School is to be established and the staffing for all units will be centralized, the administrative reason for the original merger no longer exists.

Until a few years ago, the less commonly taught languages (Chinese, Japanese, Hindi-Urdu) were housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, until the director of TESOL agreed to oversee these languages and moved them to the Department of English. Now that a School is to be formed, it makes sense to house them with the other foreign languages. Linguistics is the most natural home, as the tenure-faculty specialty of these languages is Second Language Acquisition.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The Interim President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.