

Board Meeting  
May 29, 2013

RENAME AND REVISE THE MAJOR IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND  
LITERATURE, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Rename and Revise the Major in Russian Language and Literature, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to rename and revise the major in Russian Language and Literature as Slavic Studies in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The renamed and revised major in Slavic Studies will emphasize the study of language, literature, and culture in their historical context. The addition of five concentrations in Russian, Polish, South Slavic, Ukrainian, and Czech Studies will help in meeting the programmatic demands of Illinois' large heritage populations from the Chicago area. Students who might have taken Polish or Ukrainian for family heritage reasons, but previously saw no programmatic benefit to doing so, now will be able to work toward a major.

The Urbana-Champaign campus has a depth in Russian language, literature, and culture across multiple disciplines that very few U.S. institutions of higher learning can match. Russian is a central departmental strength in terms of faculty research, graduate studies, undergraduate course offerings, and enrollments. Nevertheless, in the post-Cold War and post-USSR world, rendering the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures less Russo-centric is long overdue, especially given the considerable faculty strengths in non-Russian literatures and cultures.

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