Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 26, 2023

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Board Meeting

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# RENAME FOREIGN LANGUAGES BUILDING, URBANA

**Action:** Rename Foreign Languages Building

**Funding:** No funding is required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the concurrence of the appropriate administrative officers recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) to rename the Foreign Languages Building (FLB) to the Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics Building (LCLB).

The FLB building was named in 1968, during the Cold War and Vietnam War periods. The name is consistent with the geopolitical context of that era which allowed U.S. universities to utilize federal funds to build foreign language and area studies programs through Title VI of the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) of 1958. The NDEA aimed to ensure trained expertise of sufficient quality and quantity to meet U.S. national security needs.[[1]](#footnote-1) Since then, the rationale for studying languages and cultures has changed. They now include many other purposes unrelated to national security. Scholars now seek to understand the role of cultures, literatures, and the languages associated with them to promote diverse and pluralistic societies. Also included in that purpose is the richness and complexity of U.S. culture.

The School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics comprises 12 different units that strongly focus on literatures, cultures, and languages throughout the U.S. and the world. It is recommended that the name of the building better represent the wide range of interests that characterize teaching and research in SLCL, some of which are related only to the knowledge or pedagogy of foreign languages. The recommended renaming will match the school’s name with the building’s name.

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.

No funding is required for this action.

The President of the University of Illinois System concurs.

1. https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/history.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)