

Board Meeting  
July 24, 2014

TRANSFER ALL ASPECTS OF THE ITALIAN PROGRAM AND RENAME THE DEPARTMENTS, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Transfer All Aspects of the Italian Program and Rename the Departments, 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 Liberal Arts and Sciences to transfer all aspects of the Italian Program from the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese to the Department of French and rename the departments.

The proposed transfer of the Italian program includes moving the administrative homes of the faculty and associated non-tenure-track academic lines and moving the degree programs including: the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Italian, the undergraduate minor in Italian, the Master of Arts in Italian, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Italian. In addition, the Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese will be renamed as the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and the Department of French will be renamed as the Department of French and Italian.

The common intellectual grounds of the French and Italian traditions and their shared past and present geopolitical, linguistic, and cultural affinities recommend a shared department for these two programs that have, over the course of many years, independently developed a strong focus on Europe, the continent where common French and Italian historical, linguistic, and cultural ties are most visible. For the most part, Italy and Spain do not share this dense network of historical connections. However, long lasting natural connections do unite Spanish and Portuguese, two primary languages of the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America. The existence of numerous departments of French and Italian across the United States testifies to the recognized validity of a French-Italian academic configuration (Stanford, USC, UC-Davis, UT-Austin, Wisconsin, Indiana, University of Chicago, Northwestern, Princeton, Ohio State, etc.). Similarly, most academic units specializing in Spanish in the United States tend to include both Spanish and Portuguese, but not Italian.

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.