AACR 4

Office of the President
April 30, 2002

Members, Board of Trustees:

MERGER OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the merger of the Departments of German Studies, French, Russian and Eastern Studies, and Classics into a single Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Background: In recent years, the Council on Postsecondary Education has closely scrutinized the UK foreign language programs, along with all other foreign language units in the Commonwealth whose degree programs have been placed in CPE Category 2 ("the program should be continued but altered in some form"). The CPE measures "degree productivity" as the five-year average of degrees produced, with established thresholds of twelve degrees per year at the BA/BS level, seven per year at the MA/MS level, and five per year at the Ph.D. level. None of the degree programs administered by the four departments to be merged have come close to meeting the established thresholds.

The original productivity measure did not adequately take into account the full range of faculty teaching services. The University and CPE are working on an alternative productivity measure that will be calculated on the basis of student credit-hour production rather than on number of degrees, and will be calculated at the department rather than the program level.

The proposed merger ensures the budgetary viability of the units, facilitates the training of foreign language instructors, facilitates the more widespread adoption of "best practices" in the classroom, frees up more faculty time for research and teaching, simplifies the lines of communication, preserves the integrity of well-established degree programs and ensures the future vitality of well-established degree programs.

The proposal has been approved by the faculty in the College; recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council; and approved by the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: ☑ Approved   ❏ Disapproved   ❏ Other _____