

Resolution 2016-17.H
Resolution for the Renaming of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: February 27, 2017

Reviewed/Waived by Faculty Senate:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by President:

Effective: Fall 2017

WHEREAS, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, established as a separate department in academic year 1976-1977, has achieved national and international distinction in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and outreach, and

WHEREAS, the Department has grown over the decades to include non-European languages such as Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese, as well as modern Greek, and

WHEREAS, the Department now offers majors in Classical Studies, French, German, Russian, and Spanish, and minors in Arabic, Chinese Studies, Classical Languages (including ancient Greek), Classical Studies, French, French for Business, German, Italian, Japanese Studies, Latin, Russian, and Spanish, and

WHEREAS, during the past decades "foreign" has been removed from the name of most language departments due to negative connotations that include the unwanted, the unnatural, the alien, the strange, and

WHEREAS, our department's name is thus outside of and behind the national norms, and negatively affects the perception of the university and the department, and

WHEREAS, the Classical Studies program (Latin and Greek) has achieved particularly high recognition both regionally and nationally for outstanding teaching and discovery, and

WHEREAS, departments nationally that include Classical Studies with modern languages and literatures have a name that reflects this inclusion,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE IT RESOLVED, that the name of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures be changed to the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, and the change forwarded to the President for approval and the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) for notification.