




**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Donna E. Shalala, President

**From:** Stephen Sapp  
Chair, Faculty Senate 

**Date:** October 4, 2006

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2006-05(B) –Name change of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

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On September 27, 2006, the Faculty Senate unanimously approved the change of the name of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, with the understanding that this become effective for the spring 2007 semester and that the Department be granted the authority to use the name as soon as you approve this legislation. The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

SS/kl

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Michael Halleran, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Anne Cruz, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Faculty Senate Legislation #2006-05(B) –Name change of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

**PRESIDENT’S RESPONSE**

APPROVED:  DATE: Oct 10 2006  
(President’s Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Provost / Dean Arts

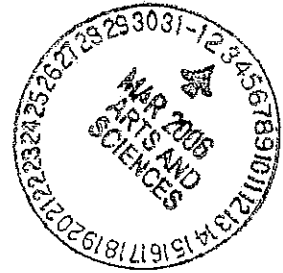
EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

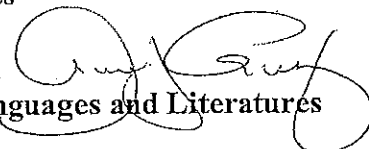
REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Dean Halleran  
College of Arts and Sciences

**FROM:** Anne J. Cruz, Chairperson   
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

**DATE:** 03/01/06

**SUBJECT:** Justification for name changes to existing department

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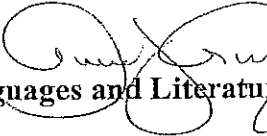
The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Miami submits for your approval a name change to the existing department name from Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. The department faculty feel that to use the word "foreign" in the department names does not accurately reflect the multicultural and multilingual reality of a state such as Florida where for the population itself, such languages as Spanish, Portuguese, and French are first languages and not "foreign" at all. Since the release of both Latin and Greek to the new Department of Classics, the time has come to change the department name as the department no longer reflects these pre-modern languages. After deliberation and a departmental vote the faculty propose to replace the word "foreign" with the word "modern" in the department name. This name change will not result in undue overlap with the titles of other existing programs/departments at the University of Miami.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Dean Halleran  
College of Arts and Sciences

**FROM:** Anne J. Cruz, Chairperson   
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

**DATE:** 03/02/06

**SUBJECT:** Faculty Approval to Change Department Name

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The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Miami first discussed the topic of departmental name change at the Faculty meeting on January 20, 2006. At that meeting, the faculty agreed that it was an appropriate time to consider a departmental name change as the inclusion of the word "foreign" in the department name does not conform to the evolving multicultural and multilingual realities of Southern Florida and of the United States. Indeed, many of our students' first languages are Spanish, Portuguese, or French, whether native-born or international. Since Greek and Latin, once taught in the department, were transferred to the new Department of Classics in AY05-06, there is no longer a need to accommodate any pre-modern language within our department name.

A query posted on the MLA Association of Departments for Foreign Languages Chair's listserv resulted in more than thirty responses from various chairs of "foreign languages" departments stating that they had recently changed or would soon change their names. The response, unusually high in number, corroborated that the general trend for departments that teach a combination of Romance and non-Romance languages has been to eliminate the term "foreign," which one department chair called "inaccurate and denigrating."

At the January 20 meeting, the faculty agreed to put forward several proposals for the departmental name change so that a formal vote would take place at the department faculty retreat scheduled for February 18, 2006. At the retreat, the following names were included on the ballots:

- Department of Languages and Literatures
- Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
- Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- Department of World Languages and Literatures
- Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

There was also room for a write-in vote.

The vote for a new name for the department resulted in the following:

Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures: 7  
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures: 7  
Department of World Languages and Literatures: 1  
Department of Literary, Linguistic, and Cultural Studies: 1

The run-off results by ballot vote were as follows:

Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures: 6  
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures: 12  
Abstain vote: 1  
Total votes: 19  
Total non-votes: 3

Given the overwhelming support for a change of name, and the strong support for Modern Languages and Literatures, the department asks your authorization to pursue this action.