October 24, 2017

Motion to Modify World Language Proficiency Requirement for Students Enrolled at WKU through June 30, 2018.

Currently, there are 1,522 fourth year students, 1,665 third year students, 2,194 second year students, and 3,408 first year students who have not met the novice high world language proficiency requirement at WKU. This requirement can be met by students passing a STAMP test or passing the 102-equivalent of an approved world language course.

The WKU Counseling and Testing Center currently provides STAMP testing for 60 students per month. The Department of Modern Languages has offered on average 2,323 seats in their 102-courses during the fall and spring semesters over the last four academic years. An additional 126-180 seats are offered each academic year (fall and spring semesters) through the American Sign Language (ASL) 102 course.

Given the current backlog of students who must fulfill the world language requirement, the limited capacity for the STAMP test, and an insufficient number of seats offered in 102-sections of approved world language courses to meet the annual student demand, the Colonnade Curriculum Committee recommends the following changes that will be effective immediately after approval of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), the University Senate, and the Provost.

(1) All degree-seeking students with two credits (or equivalent) of high school world language will be considered to have fulfilled the world language proficiency requirement at WKU. This change is effective for all degree-seeking WKU students who have a catalogue year through 2017-2018.

(2) The Office of Academic Affairs, the Potter College of Arts and Letters, the Department of Modern Languages, the College of Health and Human Services, the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and any other academic units with courses that fulfill the world language requirement have until February 15, 2018 to present a plan to the WKU Colonnade Curriculum Committee that clearly articulates how future students can fulfill a world language proficiency requirement. This plan should be comprehensive and clearly articulate how student demand for courses can be met and/or how the world language proficiency requirement can be realistically achieved with existing university resources and staffing.

(3) The WKU Colonnade Curriculum Committee will revisit the world language proficiency requirement at its March meeting. The WKU Colonnade Curriculum Committee will consider the viability of the world language proficiency requirement given the details of the plan submitted under item # 2. Should the details of the plan appear to be insufficient in preventing another backlog of students who need to meet this requirement, the Colonnade Curriculum Committee may move to change the world language proficiency requirement. Such a change would be submitted to SEC, the University Senate, and the Provost for approval.

Motion unanimously approved (8-0) by Colonnade Curriculum Committee on 10/24/17