PhD Language Requirement Is Changed

THE foreign language requirement — roadblock — to many a doctoral aspirant in years past — seems destined to be relaxed at the University.

The Graduate Council, representing departments offering courses through the Graduate School, last month approved a change that would leave the requirement of a language proficiency for PhD candidates up to individual departments. It will no longer be a blanket requirement for all candidates.

Later, the Council on Academic Affairs approved the change. Departments were asked to notify the Graduate School of their requirements, which will then become binding on all future and currently enrolled doctoral candidates.

Ohio State’s action follows similar decisions at a number of other universities, such as Harvard, Cornell, Northwestern and Pennsylvania.

The requirement of a foreign language for the PhD stems from early years of American universities, when students needed to be skilled in French or German in order to do their research. Later, the requirement was modified to include Russian, Spanish, and other languages in which source readings had to be taken place.

Proponents for the change, however, maintain that English is used so universally that foreign language proficiency is no longer required for research in many areas of study. They also argue that the minimal proficiency required is not adequate and is, thus, of little practical use to the student.

Then too, argue proponents, testing procedures are unreliable; proficiency standards vary from department to department and from instructor to instructor. Some suggest that the language requirement, if there is one, should come as a requirement for admission to graduate school, rather than its present status — a final and distracting hurdle to the PhD candidate.

Implementation of the Ohio State action began last month when the Curriculum Committee of the Graduate School considered proposals designed to answer some of the objections to the current program:

• It was proposed that whatever option a department takes — either to require a foreign language or not to — should be invoked generally within an area of specialization and not on an individual student basis.

• The minimal requirement of proficiency should be increased to a thorough reading knowledge of any of the languages approved. It has been proposed that testing utilize the programs of the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N. J., and that credit be extended for foreign language proficiency demonstrated by the student while an undergraduate.

Department names new chief
after former chairman resigns

David A. Griffin, former chairman of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, has been replaced as department head by acting chairman Robert D. Cottrell, effective July 1.

Griffin, appointed chairman of the department in 1972, resigned last month, but denied rumors that he was asked to resign.

“I have been thinking of changing fields for some time,” he said. “I want to go back to the field of teaching.”

Griffin came to Ohio State in 1961 from the State Department where he was an instructor in Southern European and Latin American languages. He was appointed acting chairman of the department in 1971.

“When I took the acting position, I had no real desire to continue as chairman,” he added.

Cottrell cited Griffin’s achievements during his tenure.

“He did a remarkable job during the rather difficult times of language requirements and expansion,” Cottrell said.

John W. Shumaker, associate dean of the College of Humanities, also denied Griffin was asked to step down.

“Griffin has done a fantastic job of running a complex department,” Shumaker said.

“He simply felt it was time.”
Language clubs hold convention

By April Garrett 4-21-83
Lantern staff writer

Approximately 1600 Ohio high school students will be visiting OSU for the "First Annual Romance Language Day" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday in the Ohio Union.

The program is sponsored by the OSU romance language clubs in conjunction with the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, said JoAnn Recker, outreach coordinator in the department.

Letters were sent out to all secondary school romance language teachers in Ohio who are on a computer list and will possibly include some junior high students, Recker said.

The list contains the names of all the foreign language teachers in Ohio who responded with an interest to be on the list, said Gerard Ervin, associate professor in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures.

Ervin set up the list on the computer for the College of Humanities and said it contains about 2000 names.

OSU's Department of Romance Languages is the largest in the state. Recker said the presentation is sort of a mini-convention and a potential recruitment activity for students interested in romance languages. The students who are coming to OSU are all studying one of the romance languages.

The program will offer cultural presentations of the French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian languages in the department, sessions on foreign language careers and how to prepare for OSU language placement tests, and demonstrations of 101, 102 and 103 classes, Recker said.

In addition to these, the program will include a French Film Festival, Spanish folk song singing and dancing, a demonstration on how to make French food, information on French gestures, a sight and sound presentation of Spain and all the Italian or Portuguese you can learn in an hour, she said. Language club members will serve as hosts at the presentation.

Bus tours of OSU will also be provided, with buses leaving the Ohio Union every hour, Recker said. Tour guides will be provided on the buses by the Visitors Information Service, located in the Mershon Auditorium lobby.

The presentations will be held in the Conference Theater, Memorial Room, the Ohio series, the Buckeye series and the Scarlet and Gray series in the Ohio Union.
Department to honor Havens prize winners

Cottrell, who won the book award last year, will receive the 1984 prize for his article, "Croisement chasmatique dans le premier 'Essai de Montaigne' published in Bulletin de la Societe des Amis de Montaigne.

A former chairperson of the department, Cottrell has been an Ohio State faculty member since 1968.

Besnard, who has received the award for best article twice before, was honored for her article, "Nimroud ou Orphee Josephine Peladan et la societe decadente" in Romantisme.

She first came to Ohio State as a visiting professor in 1977. At spring commencement, she will be one of eight faculty members to receive the 1984 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.
OSU barraged with students in foreign language series

By Michael A. Kucera
Lantern staff writer

OSU underestimated the number of students who need to take language courses to meet the conditional admissions language requirement.

In autumn, the university began requiring all entering freshman who have had less than two years of a language in high school to take a remedial series.

Ronald Rosbottom, chairman of the Department of Romance Languages said, "The response from the students signing up for the course has been overwhelming. Hundreds of students were closed out of the classes this quarter."

The 100.01 and 100.02 language series was implemented in the autumn by the Department of Romance Languages and Literature so students could meet the conditional admission language requirement.

Joann Recker, coordinator for the Department of Romance Languages, said French, Spanish, German, Italian and Latin are available to students who need to meet the new requirement.

There is a shortage of staff to teach the classes, Rosbottom said. However, he said the department is doing its best to hire more staff so more sections of the courses can be offered in the future.

"We were requested, when the new admission requirement came into effect, to come up with something bold and innovative to meet the needs of students coming in conditionally," Recker said.

Rosbottom said the five-hour courses are designed for students who have not taken the equivalent of two years of a language while in high school.

Recker said anyone can take the series, but credits earned in the courses do not count toward graduation.

Some students who are working on their language requirement for Arts and Sciences may take the new series to ease into a language. They may feel 101 may be too accelerated, Recker said.

It is possible that a student who has taken a year of a language in high school could place into the 100.02 level, she said.

Once a student completes the 100.02 level of a language, the conditional language requirement has been met, and is equivalent to completing a 101 level in the language, she said.

Recker said if the student is in the College of Arts and Sciences, the student would then take the 102, 103 and 104 level of the language to complete the Arts and Science graduation requirement.

The new language series teaches students the basics in grammar and culture, said Melissa Gruzs, who teaches French 100.01 this quarter and is a lecturer for the romance languages.

The students in her class are tested on grammar, listening, reading and writing of the language. Course material covers about 80 percent language and 20 percent culture, she said.

Gruzs the cultural aspects of the course include discussions on the language's influence and areas throughout the world where the language is spoken.

"We try to personalize language and make it fun," she said.

Vic Kruse, a junior from Defiance, is taking French 100.01 this quarter. He said the course is good for people who have no language experience.

However, he feels that 25 hours is too much of the language to complete his Arts and Science requirement.

Recker said she expects the enrollment for the 100.01 and 100.02 courses to drop as more students take a language at the high school level to avoid entering OSU conditionally.
High school students to learn romance culture, linguistics

By Greg Mende
Lantern staff writer

Over 500 foreign language students from Ohio high schools will converge on campus today for "Romance Language Day," an event sponsored by the department of Romance Languages and Literatures.

The mini-convention, which will be held at the Ohio Union from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will give students the chance to participate in linguistic and cultural activities in French, Spanish or Italian, said Joann Recker, department program coordinator.

"Many high school teachers have expressed appreciation both for the enrichment it provides their students as well as the opportunity to visit Ohio State," Recker said.

Special activities will include a performance of scenes from "The Barber of Seville" by Opera Columbus and a slide presentation entitled, "Hispanic of Ohio."

Twenty-five members of the romance languages faculty will be offer presentations that will cover such topics as foreign career opportunities and business and politics in France, Spain and Italy.

Lynne Ware, a French teaching assistant, will be talking to students about French humor in the classroom, an ingredient she believes is essential in any language.

"I think it's important to put in humor when you teach," Ware said. "Learning can be enjoyable. It doesn't have to be a really traumatic, no-fun experience."

Students will also be visiting French, Spanish and Italian classes between presentations. Ware said Ohio State's language departments will benefit from these visits in the long run.

"I think that if (high school students) come to a college class and see it can be fun and that it's of a manageable size, they might be encouraged to study languages here," Ware said.

The last time the program involved high school students was three years ago. Conflicts with Easter forced cancellation of the event in 1984 and last year's program was geared specifically to OSU students.

Recker said the event was switched back to meet the needs of high school language students because it gives "good visibility to languages."

"There was a lot of enthusiasm generated after we had the first one," Recker said.
Department indecisive

Faculty voices mixed views about split

By Thomas Y. Gibson
Lantern staff writer

The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures is in limbo, awaiting a decision on whether to combine and divide into two separate departments, faculty members have said.

"The question whether or not Romance Languages should be split has been entertained in this college for nearly 15 years," said Dean Michael Riley, head of the College of Humanities.

Under the proposed structure, the departments of French and Italian will become one department, Spanish and Portuguese will become another.

"It's a natural breakdown that was said Professor Charles Williams, chief advisor of the Department of French. "It's also a trend across the country. The language departments at the University of Illinois and the University of California, Santa Barbara have done it this way."

Riley said the department undertook a program review, a process through which USB offices go every five to seven years in order to examine their strengths, weaknesses, potential for growth and problem areas.

TWO REVIEW committees, one interdepartmental and the other external, examined the department. The external review took place last November. The internal review committee, consisting of faculty members from both within the department and one person from the Provost's office, launched its review in April 1986 and discussed its conclusions in July 1987.

"The first and principal recommendation of the outside review committee was to divide the department," Riley said.

Riley said the usual procedure is to bring together the two reports from the review committees and then send them through a chair of officials, such as the dean of the Graduate School and vice provost of academic affairs, who set up with a plan of action.

Before this process was completed, Professors Jones and Provost's office is now waiting for the plan of action to be completed.

"WE NEED two plans of action," he said. "One from each department (French, Spanish, Portuguese), that's what is taking so long. We expect it by February of 1988."

"I don't know what to make of the complaints," Riley said. "I don't think there is an issue as to the validity of that action."

"THE MINUTE that action (the split) was taken, I thought that issue was resolved," he said. "It was not the point that I said ... we would proceed to begin taking the steps required to divide the department."

"I think the move was done in a hasty manner, but, it was the only way to get things done."

On July 14, 1986, 38 days after the Spanish department voted, Ronald Rotobottom, professor of French, resigned as chairman of the Department of Romance Languages.

"I didn't think that the department had been able to discuss this issue at length, in public and calmly enough to make such a decision," Rotobottom said.

"I was concerned for what I considered to have been a rather hasty rush to divide the department," he said. "And it made me think that I just didn't want to be involved in it."

PROFESSOR HANS Keller, an instructor of French, said the split saddens him.

"The basic principles in higher education being shattered here," Keller said.

Keller said he believes the new configuration will not enable students to take more courses outside of their field because it proposes more "concentrations" within the specific major.

Riley said July 1, 1989 as a target date for deciding whether the department will split.

"The department has simply gotten too big for what it is asked to do. We are now the single largest Spanish department on one campus in this country and we are among the largest French departments."

—Charles Williams

Howard Gauthier, associate provost of academic affairs, said the provost's office is now waiting for the plan of action to be completed.

"THE NEW departments would no longer be called 'Romances,' but would probably incorporate the words 'studies' in their titles instead, said Kubayanda.

The term "studies" as opposed to languages and literatures implies a reference to what is generally described as culture courses relating to the character of a nationalistic or geographical area." Riley said.

Mario Isegas, a Spanish professor who voted against the split, said nothing was illegal about the voting procedure.

"Today my vote would still be no because I have not been convinced of the advantages of the split," Isegas said. "I would like to hear the voices of those who are against the split. I never had a chance to hear them, not because of dictatorial impositions but because of the democratic decision taken to close the debate."

"The split is a reality with us," he said. "Everybody should brace and try to work the best we can in the context of the university we have inherited."

KUBAYANDA said the new two departments shall remain in the same building.

This quarter, 900 students were closed out of Spanish classes, 300 out of French and 200 out of Italian, Kubayanda said.
TRUSTEES CREATE NEW ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS, CHANGE COLLEGE NAME

COLUMBUS -- Changes in the study of academic disciplines at The Ohio State University have led to the abolition of two departments and the creation of three others. In addition, the College of Home Economics is changing its name to more accurately reflect its mission.

The university Board of Trustees Friday (7/7) approved the changes. Trustees abolished the Department of Food Science and Nutrition and created the Department of Food Science and Technology. They eliminated the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and created the Department of French and Italian and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

In addition, they changed the name of the College of Home Economics to the College of Human Ecology.
FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The splitting of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures stemmed from a recommendation from an external review committee that said the former administrative arrangement did not allow growth and development.

The action follows a national trend to separate the languages in response to different directions in social, political, and cultural currents in each area. In their resolution, trustees said the two new departments would support development of new thrusts, such as Latin American or Caribbean studies.

"We believe we'll be able to build stronger programs and put out a stronger profile than we have done previously," said Josaphat B. Kubayanda, who was acting chairperson of the old department.

He said that most studies of French and Spanish, for example, have developed in different directions from their common Latin roots.

"What is happening in French Canada and the Caribbean and Africa for instance, has given French a wider base than it used to have," Kubayanda said. Similarly, the discipline of Spanish is not just the study of the Iberian peninsula, but includes Latin America and Caribbean issues.

In connection with the change, the board appointed Kubayanda as acting chairperson of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. He is an associate professor of Spanish —more—
specializing in Latin American and Caribbean literatures. Charles G. Williams, an associate professor of French specializing in 17th century French literature, was named acting chairperson of the Department of French and Italian. They were appointed through September 1990.

Both departments will remain in Cunz Hall, 1841 Millikin Road.
Ohio State’s chemistry, food science departments honored for teaching excellence

COLUMBUS – The Ohio State University recently announced that the departments of Chemistry and Food Science and Technology are the recipients of the 2000 Departmental Teaching Excellence Awards.

The Office of Academic Affairs and the Alumni Association co-sponsor the awards, honoring outstanding performance in teaching by two academic departments each year. The awards recognize the central role that undergraduate, graduate and professional teaching plays in the university’s mission, and acknowledge the collective effort that determines the quality of individual students’ education. Winning departments receive $25,000 in annual rate from the Office of Academic Affairs and a one-time award of $1,500 from the Alumni Association.

In addition, three departments this year received an honorable mention in the competitive program: East Asian languages and literatures, French and Italian, and linguistics. Each of those departments will receive a one-time award of $2,000 from the Office of Academic Affairs.

“All of these departments are honorable, in my book, for their obvious commitment to excellence in teaching,” said Martha Garland, vice provost and dean for undergraduate studies. “The competition for these awards is stiff, which is really a blessing – we have so many departments working incredibly hard on behalf of the students. It’s such a pleasure to be able to reward them through this program.”

Bruce Bursten, chair of Ohio State’s chemistry department, reports that, of the 36 College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences faculty who have received the Distinguished Scholar Award and the 30 college recipients of the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, 16 and 12 of those recipients, or 44 percent and 40 percent, respectively, were chemistry professors.
“We start with faculty who are intrinsically interested in teaching,” Bursten said. “They do a good job, and are assisted by a superb support staff and a superb training program for graduate teaching associates and undergraduate student instructional aides. And you can’t leave out the relationship between research and teaching. A big part of the undergraduate experience here is that a lot of students receive undergraduate research experience. Plus, we have faculty at the cutting edge of chemical research exposing our students to the best new stuff going on.”

The department will use its award winnings to directly support teaching. The cash award will help fund a program of teaching chemistry to high school chemistry teachers, and the department is considering using the annual rate to support the hiring of a faculty specialist in chemical education.

Ohio State’s Department of Food Science and Technology often adjusts its curriculum to address the needs of the nation’s food industry, contributing to the nearly 100 percent employability of the university’s food science and technology graduates.

“There is no graduate of food science who cannot find a job,” said Ken Lee, department chair. And they’re working in a field that truly is key to improving the human condition – which is core to the university’s values and mission, Lee notes.

In their pursuit of safer and better foods, students are working with a highly decorated group of faculty in a relatively small department for Ohio State: 14 professors total. Many have earned the University’s Distinguished Scholar Award and the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, and all have received a variety of external awards commending their work.

“That’s about a culture of excellence,” Lee said. “I’m fortunate, and I guess Ohio State is fortunate, that we don’t have monodimensional faculty. You can’t say you’re going to be excellent in teaching and not also be excellent in research and service. This college (the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science) really does have a tradition and cultural expectation that gives students the top priority. They find this a compelling place to learn.”

Lee said the department will use its teaching excellence award earnings to invest in and foster activities that give students extraordinary learning experiences, including pursuing the most state-of-the-art technology available for its new $17 million building under construction. The department plans to occupy the building in December.

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