

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
PROPOSAL FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE COVER SHEET**

Part I: General Information

1. Institution: UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

2. Nature of Proposed Change (i.e., to establish, reorganize or terminate an institutional unit). Please summarize the change here and attach a detailed description of the change on a separate page, as well as copies of the institution's current and resultant organizational charts. Change the name of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

3. Purpose of Proposed Change. Please summarize the reason(s) for the change here and attach a detailed description of the purpose for the change on a separate page.

The name change will better reflect the department's pedagogical approaches and practices.

4. Type of Proposed Change (check one).

SIMPLE

COMPLEX

If simple, please explain how the change fits with the institution's mission, curriculum and funding on a separate page. Part II is optional.

If complex, please complete and submit Part II of this form.

5. Does this proposed change involve the establishment of an off-campus instructional site?

NO **YES**

If yes, does the proposal fit the criteria for a partially-exempt or non-exempt site?

PARTIALLY-EXEMPT

NON-EXEMPT

If partially-exempt, please attach documentation to support this status.

If non-exempt, please complete and submit Part II and Part III of this form.

6. Date of Approval by Board of Visitors.



Check box if BOV approval is not needed.

7. Proposed Effective-Date of Organizational Change.

Fall 2013

Signed: _____
Title: Provost

Date: 2/1/13
Phone: 540-654-1929

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PROPOSED CHANGE

The University of Mary Washington (UMW) requests the following simple organizational change to take effect at the start of the 2013-14 academic year (August 2013).

Change the Name of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

RATIONALE

The department wishes to drop the term “foreign” from the department name because they believe it does not properly reflect their pedagogical approaches and practices. “Foreign” conveys “otherness” or a state of being “outside.” Yet the languages taught in the department are ones that are spoken by many persons living inside the U.S. Many of the faculty in the department are native speakers of these languages and are also citizens; they are not outsiders. Dropping the term “foreign” provides for a more inclusive departmental identity.

The name change also better represents the current academic offerings of the department. In addition to instruction in language skills and linguistic structures and analysis, the department offers courses in the analysis of literary texts and in the literary and cultural histories of the many countries and communities in which the languages the department teaches are spoken. The current name makes it appear as if the department teaches only language skills. The new name better represents the breadth of the department’s offerings.

The name change also enables the department to keep up with developments in the field. Many departments in the Commonwealth of Virginia and at our peer institutions no longer use the term “foreign” in their department names.

CURRICULUM IMPACT

The name change will have no impact on curricular offerings, the majors, or the degree program in the department. This is a change in department name only.

Before submitting the proposal, the department considered the fact that another UMW department (English, Linguistics, and Communication) also involves a modern language and teaches courses in literature. The word “English” in the title of that department clearly differentiates it from the programs that are instead housed in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. No concerns about the proposed name change were expressed by faculty from the Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication.

The department name change proposal was reviewed and approved by the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee on October 17, 2012. Following that, and as part of the university-level curriculum review process, the proposal was posted on the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) web site and all faculty at UMW had the opportunity to comment or raise questions before a vote was taken to approve the proposal. No comments were made. The UCC approved the proposal on November 14, 2013.

RESOURCES IMPACT

The department name change will not entail any additional faculty or staff positions. It will not require an increase in operating funds save for the small costs associated with new business cards, stationery, and office signage. UMW estimates these costs will amount to less than \$3,000. The department is prepared to economize when reasonable (such as using up some old stationery and business cards).

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

This is a change in name only that did not alter UMW's organizational structure. The department in question is located in the College of Arts and Sciences. The attached organization charts show the names of department chairs in that College followed by the names of the respective departments. The first organization chart depicts the department's current name. The second chart shows the proposed new name.

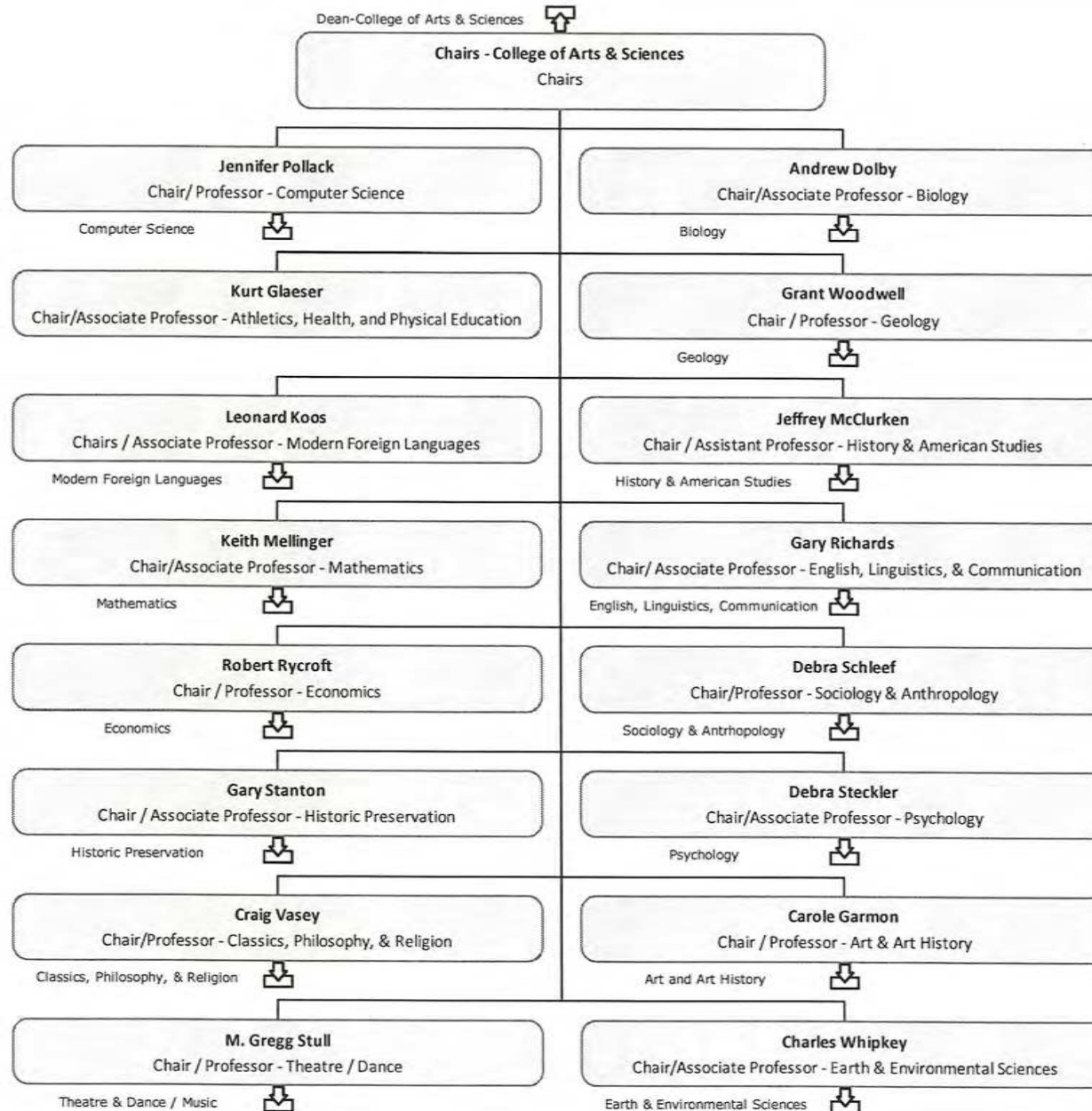
APPENDIX

University of Mary Washington Organization chart

University of Mary Washington Office of the President

Chairs

CURRENT



University of Mary Washington Office of the President

Chairs

NEW ORG CHART

Modern Languages and Literatures

