

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-019-178

Proposed English and Foreign Languages (EFL) Department Name Change to English and  
Modern Languages (EML)

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 03/30/2018

Executive Committee  
Received and Forwarded

Date: 04/04/2018

Academic Senate

Date: 04/11/2018  
First Reading

## BACKGROUND:

In Fall 2014 the faculty of English and Foreign Languages began working on a name change proposal by setting up an ad hoc committee of faculty to make recommendations to the department as a whole. In Spring 2016 faculty voted unanimously to change the department's name from English and Foreign Languages to English and Modern Languages.

This change was designed to coincide with semester conversion, and to reflect the content of redesigned departmental programs under semesters. The department's current name is not representative of the teaching and scholarship of the department, and is out of step with academic trends nationally and within California.

Due to the multilingual and multicultural student population of Cal Poly Pomona, many students in CPP's Spanish, Chinese, French, and German courses are not studying those languages as a foreign language, but, rather, as their first or heritage language. The adjective modern is neutral in this regard and, as a consequence, more inclusive of all the perspectives in which these languages are taught. This name change is consistent with a national trend (i.e. for more information please visit: [https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/10/05/colleges\\_are\\_replacing\\_foreign\\_language\\_departments\\_with\\_world\\_language\\_departments](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/10/05/colleges_are_replacing_foreign_language_departments_with_world_language_departments)) by which many departments have abandoned the term "foreign" for more terms like "modern" or "world" (Jaschik, "Not So Foreign Languages," Inside Higher Education, 5 Oct. 2011), and evident in the fact that all but two CSU campuses have followed suit.

## RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Faculty of the existing department  
Provost Alva  
Deans  
Associate Deans  
AVP of Faculty Affairs  
Sep Eskandari, Interim AVP for Academic Planning  
Sara Garver, Associate Dean, CLASS  
Liliane Fucaloro, Chair, English and Foreign Languages

## DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:

As indicated in the referral, this department name change is to reflect the content of redesigned departmental programs and is in sync with academic trends nationally and within California. As such, the AP committee recommends the approval of the department's name from English and Foreign Languages to English and Modern Languages.