

**From:** Bulla, Gary  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 08, 2008 8:31 AM  
**To:** Roszkowski, Christie  
**Subject:** FLG proposal response

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Dr. Roszkowski,

I strongly oppose the proposal suggesting modification of Eastern's foreign language requirement that was recently submitted by Dr. Canfield.

While the intent of requiring an additional semester of foreign language is admirable, to make such a requirement university wide is a poor choice. It places an unnecessary burden on students in the sciences. Students in these programs have a curriculum with very little room for additional coursework. In biological sciences, students have 108 hours of required coursework (including 9 semester hours each of humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and English). Typically, students also have 5-6 semester hours of required math prerequisites. Due to the fact that there is very little "wiggle room", students who come in with additional deficits (or if they change their major even in their first year) are required to take over 120 hours of coursework to complete their degree. An additional foreign language requirement would place undue burden on these students.

Two alternate strategies that might have merit include:

1. Following the U of I model and making the requirement dependant on department or college.
2. Folding the requirement into the humanities/fine art university 9 hour requirement. If this additional foreign language component is as important as you say, then perhaps it should be used in the role that the humanity/fine arts requirement was intended: to broaden the experience of students at EIU.

Gary Bulla

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