

**From:** Wheeler, Kraig A.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 08, 2008 8:25 AM  
**To:** Bulla, Gary  
**Cc:** Roszkowski, Christie  
**Subject:** RE: Foreign language requirement modification

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Hi Gary,

Thanks for your recent email and comments concerning the FLG proposal that is currently being reviewed at EIU. The college of sciences curriculum committee (COSCC) did receive a copy of this proposal and discuss its impact on various courses and departments within our college. Several departments, faculty members, and Dean Hanner have forwarded letters of concern to the Council on Academic Affairs detailing the potential negative impact this FLG proposal could have on the College of Sciences.

I also wanted to let you know that since the content of this proposal involves changes to the general education requirements here EIU, COSCC and other college curriculum committees do not participate in the approval process. Approval of this proposal rests solely with the CAA.

Thank you for taking the time to contact both me and Dr. Roszkowski (Chair of CAA) with your concerns.

Best Regards,

Kraig Wheeler (chair of college of sciences curriculum committee)

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**From:** Bulla, Gary  
**Sent:** Monday, April 07, 2008 4:04 PM  
**To:** Canfield, Stephen A.  
**Cc:** croskowski@eiu.edu; Wheeler, Kraig A.  
**Subject:** Foreign language requirement modification

Dr. Canfield,

I strongly oppose the suggested modification of Eastern's foreign language requirement submitted to the Curriculum Committee in the College of Sciences on March 3, 2008.

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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