

Program Suspension Proposal: Bachelor of Arts in Latin

The University of Maine undertook a review of its degree programs in the 2009-2010 academic year. President Kennedy charged the Academic Program Prioritization Working Group (APPWG) with evaluating and prioritizing all UMaine academic programs, stating that “the goal of this process will be strong support of our highest priority degree programs funded by a reduction in those ranked as our lowest priorities” (President’s Charge to APPWG). In its final report, APPWG recommended suspension of the Latin major and exploration of alternative models of focused instruction in this area. President Kennedy accepted this recommendation.

Five-Year Summary of Program Enrollments

The BA program in Latin is housed in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. There is one full-time regular faculty member who teaches the courses that make up the Latin major. Other courses are taught by a half-time faculty member who teaches Latin courses on an overload basis or by adjunct faculty.

A summary of the Latin majors and degrees awarded over the past five years is included in the following table. Number of majors is based upon fall head counts.

| Academic Year | Majors | Degrees |
|---------------|--------|---------|
| 2005-2006 | 0 | 0 |
| 2006-2007 | 3 | 0 |
| 2007-2008 | 1 | 0 |
| 2008-2009 | 3 | 0 |
| 2009-2010 | 5 | 1 |

The Latin courses offered over the past six semesters have had a mean enrollment of 10.8 students. There is considerable variability in enrollment in Latin courses with upper level courses having lower enrollments. Over the past six semesters, the average enrollment in 100 level Latin courses was 18.1. The mean enrollment in 200 through 400 level courses was 4.75 students.

Rationale

The primary rationale for the suspension of the Latin major is low enrollment. One student has earned the BA in Latin in the past five years and this student was a double major (History and Latin).

The full-time faculty member in Latin teaches the upper level Latin courses. She also teaches courses in Honors, Women’s Studies, Peace and Reconciliation Studies, and Classics. Courses she has taught in these areas have higher enrollments than the Latin courses she teaches. This faculty member has valuable expertise that can be utilized more effectively if her workload does not include upper level Latin courses required for the very few students who pursue the Latin major.

Suspension of the Latin major will not result in termination of instruction in Latin at UMaine. It is anticipated that the university will continue to offer lower level courses in Latin.

Suspension of the Latin major is unlikely to impact enrollment at UMaine. Very few students come to the University of Maine to study Latin (i.e., in a typical year the number of first semester, first-year Latin majors is 0 or 1).

The Department of Modern Languages and Classics will undergo a program review in the 2010-2011 academic year following University of Maine System policy and procedures. A site visit will be conducted as part of the program review and, in addition to evaluating the language programs at UMaine, the site visitors will be asked to provide advice on how language instruction might be modified using newer technologies and innovative pedagogies to involve more students in language learning. Given the low level of student interest in Latin and the small size of the Latin faculty, the site visitors will be asked how best to use the resources available to offer Latin instruction.

Faculty Assignment During Suspension Period

There will be no change in the assignment of faculty in Latin during the suspension period.

Impact of Program Suspension on Current Students

Current students will not be impacted during the program suspension period.

Timetable

Suspension of the Latin BA program will commence in January, 2011. No new students will be admitted to the program while it is under suspension. The program will be considered for reinstatement or elimination by December 31, 2011. During the suspension period, the program will have the opportunity to use the results of the program review, including the site visitor's report, to develop a plan for reinstatement or elimination of the Latin major.

Meetings/Discussions Regarding Proposed Suspension

The Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has met with the Chair of Modern Languages and Classics and the faculty member in Latin to discuss suspension or elimination of the Latin degree program. The Chair and faculty member preferred suspension at this time, as opposed to elimination, so that they can consider all options.

The first draft of this program suspension proposal was shared with the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, an AFUM representative and the chair of the Faculty Senate's Program Creation, Review, and Reorganization Committee on September 1, 2010.

- September 13, 2010, the Dean received a memo from Jane Smith, Chair of Modern Languages and Classics, requesting an extension of the final review date to December, 2012 (see attached).
- October 29, 2010, the Dean met with James McClymer, AFUM Representative. McClymer raised questions about the timeline and suggested that it be extended beyond the originally proposed December 31, 2010.

As a result, the date at which the program will be considered for reinstatement or elimination was changed from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2012.