

Minutes
COAS Requirements Task Force Committee
November 18, 2008

Members Present: R. Duchovic, D. Moore, I. Mallin, K. Bordens, P. Dragnev, A. Argast, G. Wang, L. Corbin, R. Hile, A. Livschiz, D. Kline, B. Kingsbury (chair), M. Jordan, L. Hess, N. Tuschling, M. Wolf, C. Andres (sub for Anthro) and H. McDonald-Lara

The meeting began at 12:00.

Discussion continued regarding allowing American Sign Language (ASL) as an alternative to satisfy the foreign language requirement. Members of committee briefly described conversations in their departments regarding the issue. Discussion continued on the topic. Concerns were consistent with previous discussion, including loss of international and writing component.

We also discussed the manner of representation by committee members on behalf of their departments (voting as they felt they should, but informed by departmental opinion), and the manner in which the document would ultimately be presented to COAS faculty for vote (on document as amended during the faculty convocation).

Ultimately we voted on essentially the same question posed to department faculty, "Is ASL a suitable alternative to more traditional languages to fulfill the foreign language requirement?" The vote was eight in favor and six against, including one vote obtained by Kingsbury after the meeting.

We then discussed how such an inclusion might be integrated into the degree requirements. This led towards a vote on whether we might include ASL as part of a foreign language requirement. A concern with this approach was that the depth of knowledge in any language would be lost. The vote was never completed.

Laurie Corbin suggested that if we were to allow ASL, we might include a requirement such as INTL I200 (Intro to Intl Studies), to address the lack of an international component.

We agreed to move forward into the document, keeping the foreign language requirement in mind, so as to see how are thinking on the topic might evolve. The next piece to consider is Part C, *Distribution*.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 2nd at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15.