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Consolidating multiple foreign language and literature undergraduate majors into a unified major (UTK Notification)

University of Tennessee Knoxville

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January 14, 2013

Dr. Belle Wheelan
President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

RE: Substantive Change at the University of Tennessee

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

Please consider this letter notification from the University of Tennessee of a substantive change at the institution on the Knoxville campus, per the guidelines as stated in the Substantive Change for Accredited Institutions of the Commission on Colleges - Policy Statement and Procedures document.

Consolidating Multiple Foreign Language and Literature Majors into a Unified Major

The Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures currently offers five undergraduate Bachelor of Arts majors: French and Francophone Studies, German, Hispanic Studies (Spanish), Italian, and Russian Studies. At the October 16, 2012 meeting of the Undergraduate Council Curriculum Committee, a proposal to consolidate the five majors into a unified B.A. major in Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures was approved by the faculty committee. Other languages previously available to students only as minors are Chinese, Italian, Japanese, and Portuguese. All languages are now part of the unified B.A. major and students will select one language as their area of concentration within the unified major.

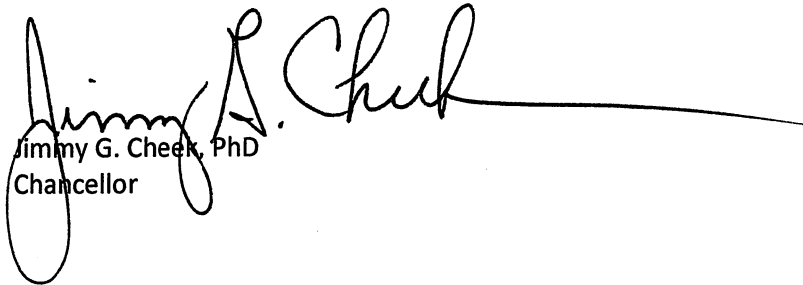
No teach-out plan is needed. Students currently enrolled in the five separate majors will be allowed to complete their studies in those majors without any interruption. No faculty positions will be lost due to this consolidation. In the process, only one course was dropped, Spanish 345: Language and Culture of the Hispanic Business World, which is currently part of a two-course sequence. The material covered in the two-course sequence is being consolidated and offered in a single course (Spanish 346: Language and Culture of the Hispanic Business World) rather than two. As of August 2013, students will no longer be admitted into the French and Francophone Studies, German, Hispanic Studies, Italian, and Russian Studies majors because those majors will cease to exist. Instead, students will be admitted to the unified major in Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures and asked to choose a language area of concentration.

The rationale for the consolidation is to facilitate the transfer of students among the state-supported institutions of higher education in Tennessee. Other institutions in the state offered unified degrees in

modern foreign languages, with concentrations for the specific language areas, while UTK did not offer a unified degree in modern foreign languages and literatures. This often led to confusion for transfer students and made transferring from two-year institutions to UTK unnecessarily difficult.

This change will go into effect with the 2013-2014 academic year.

Sincerely,



Jimmy G. Cheek, PhD
Chancellor

- C: Dr. Susan D. Martin, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Dr. Mary Lewnes Albrecht, Associate Provost and SACS Liaison
Dr. Sally McMillan, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Dr. Theresa Lee, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Robert J. Hinde, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Adrian Del Caro, Head, Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures
Dr. Steven M. Sheeley, Vice President, SACS