

Subject: Proposal for the Merger of EMLS and Foreign Language Departments

Dear Members of the Executive Board,

On behalf of the English for Multilingual Students (EMLS) and Foreign Language Departments, I am writing to formally request that the Academic Senate begin the process of reviewing and ratifying our departments' decision to merge and establish a new department: World Languages.

After careful consideration and open discussion, both departments recently held votes in which faculty members unanimously supported the merger. This decision was made with careful consideration of the academic and institutional benefits, including:

1. **Shared Disciplinary Foundations** – Both departments are fundamentally invested in the theories of language acquisition and language learning, making this merger a natural alignment of our disciplines.
2. **Faculty and Scheduling Efficiencies** – The two departments currently share adjunct faculty, and a merger will help streamline faculty assignments, reducing scheduling conflicts and optimizing teaching loads.
3. **Enhanced Visibility and Institutional Engagement** – A unified World Languages department will strengthen our presence within the college, allowing for greater participation in committees, initiatives, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

We believe that this merger will not only create a stronger academic unit but also improve student support, faculty collaboration, and institutional cohesion. We respectfully request that the Academic Senate review this proposal and initiate the necessary steps for its approval.

We appreciate your time and consideration, and we look forward to your guidance on this process. Please let us know if additional information is required.

Sincerely,

Michael Westwood
Chair, English for Multilingual Students Department
Bakersfield College

Andrea Thorson
Chair and Dean of Instruction for English for Multilingual Students Department and the Foreign Language Department with the American Sign Language Department and ITP