

To: Carol Bresnahan, Provost

From: Joe Goebel, Chair of Modern Languages Curriculum Committee  
Adriana Rosman-Askot, Chair of Modern Languages  
Pierre Le Morvan, Chair of C&S Curriculum Committee  
Ben Rifkin, Dean of Culture & Society

Date: January 26, 2011

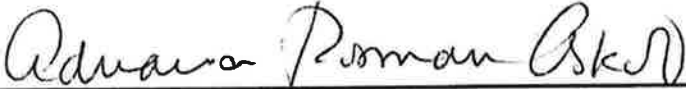
Re: Creation of New Interdisciplinary Minor in Russian Studies

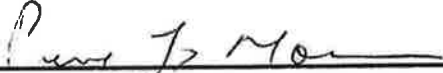
With this memo we submit to you a proposal for the creation of a new interdisciplinary minor in Russian Studies. This proposal has been approved by:

- The Curriculum Committee of the Department of Modern Languages
- The Department of Modern Languages
- The Curriculum Committee of the School of Culture and Society
- The Dean of the School of Culture and Society

With our signatures on this memo, we confirm the relevant approval of this proposal and submit it to you for further consideration in accordance with College policy.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Goebel, chair of MDL Curriculum Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adriana Rosman-Askot, chair of Modern Languages

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pierre Le Morvan, chair of C&S Curriculum Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Benjamin Rifkin, dean of Culture & Society

## **Proposal to Create New Minor in Russian Studies**

### *Department of Modern Languages*

November 8, 2010

The Department of Modern Languages is the academic home for the major in Spanish and Spanish Teacher Education. In addition, it offers or has offered instruction in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Persian. With the exception of Russian, each of these other languages figures in at least one minor sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages:

Arabic:	Arabic Minor, Middle Eastern Studies
Chinese:	Chinese Minor
French:	French Minor
German:	German Minor
Hebrew:	Middle Eastern Studies
Italian:	Italian Minor
Japanese:	Japanese Minor
Persian:	Central Eurasian Studies

With the successful implementation of the new intensive first-year Russian course, Russian 151 (18 students), its retention of students for Russian 152 (16 students), and the development and proposal for new second-year intensive Russian course (Russian 251/252) together with the other second-year intensive language courses for Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Persian, the Department of Modern Languages proposes to establish a minor in Russian Studies.

The minor in Russian Studies is designed to help students gain intermediate proficiency in Russian and to study the history, culture, and politics of Russian speaking peoples both in Russia and in Russian-speaking communities around the world.

The proposed minor, requiring a total of 5 units, would consist of the following courses:

- Russian 251 (2 units) or any higher-level Russian-language course for students who enter TCNJ with prior instruction in Russian

And 3 units of coursework drawn from any of the following classes:

- Russian 252, 301, 302, 390, 401, 402 (all taught in Russian), or 171 (taught in English)
- History 324 (cross-listed with WGS 324), 348, 349, 315
- Political Science 360

- English (LIT) courses on Russian literature
- Communication Studies (COM) courses on Russian film
- And other courses with Russia-focused content upon approval of the advisor for the Russian Studies Minor. (Currently HIS 345, 346, and INB 320 are in development.)

Students wishing to do internships or a community-engaged learning course in a Russian-speaking community in New Jersey, Philadelphia, or New York City will work with the Russian Studies Minor coordinator to establish an appropriate program through the Russian 390 (Independent Studies) option.

Students wishing to do research in the area of Russian Studies will be able to use Russian 390 for such a project, upon approval of the Russian Studies Minor coordinator, or in one of the other departments (such as History, Political Science, English, or Communication Studies) upon approval from that department.

In accordance with existing TCNJ policy, at least 3 units for the Russian Studies Minor *must* be taken on the TCNJ campus. The advisor for the Russian Studies Minor encourages students to participate in study abroad in Russia through one of the TCNJ approved programs; typically these programs offer courses in Russian history, politics, and media that could be counted toward the Russian Studies Minor, as well as courses in Russian language.

Students completing the Russian Studies Minor will be well prepared to go on to further study of Russia through any of the disciplines represented in the minor as well as to jobs in which they would interact with Russian speakers in English or Russian.

The proposal capitalizes on existing and regularly offered courses; there are no additional personnel or library costs associated with implementing the proposed minor. Rather, the minor bundles together existing curriculum as a package of courses that can be represented on the students' transcripts.

The proposal has received the endorsement from the programs and departments of English, History, International Studies and Political Science.

**Subject:** Russian studies minor and Spanish major revisions approved  
**From:** Pierre Le Morvan <lemorvan@tcnj.edu>  
**Date:** Wed, 26 Jan 2011 16:49:42 -0500 (EST)  
**To:** Benjamin Rifkin <rifkin@tcnj.edu>, "Dr. Adriana Rosman-Askot" <arosman@tcnj.edu>, "Diane A. Minger" <dminger@tcnj.edu>

Dear Adriana and Ben,

I'm pleased to report that the curriculum committee has voted to approve (as they are) the Russian Studies minor and the revisions to the Spanish major.

A member of the committee has the following question:

Some of the other language minors admit a 100 level course to their minor (some don't). Is the rationale that, say, Japanese is 'more difficult' than Spanish or, in this case, Russian? It's a question for the department that perhaps we should ask, not for the Russian minor.

If you could send the response as a reply to this message, I will send it to the committee.

With best wishes,  
Pierre  
Chair, Curriculum Committee

Pierre Le Morvan  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Coordinator of Religious Studies  
Bliss Hall 104  
Department of Philosophy and Religion

The College Of New Jersey  
Ewing, New Jersey 08628-0718  
Phone: (609) 771-2391  
Fax: (609) 637-5167  
Website: <<http://www.tcnj.edu/~lemorvan/>>

10 February 2011

Dear Provost Bresnahan,

The English Department warmly supports the creation of a Russian Studies minor at The College of New Jersey. Such a minor would produce many opportunities for English majors and would significantly add to the intellectual vibrancy of the College community.

Sincerely,

David Blake

Professor and Chair  
Department of English  
The College of New Jersey

**Subject:** Russian Studies Minor  
**From:** Celia Chazelle <chazelle@tcnj.edu>  
**Date:** Mon, 07 Feb 2011 19:22:59 -0500  
**To:** Diane Minger <dminger@tcnj.edu>

Dear Carol,

This is to confirm that the History Department strongly and enthusiastically endorses the creation of a new minor in Russian Studies!

Best wishes,  
Celia Chazelle  
Chair, Department of History  
TCNJ

**Subject:** Fwd: Russian Studies Minor  
**From:** Brian Potter <potter@tcnj.edu>  
**Date:** Mon, 7 Feb 2011 13:20:33 -0500 (EST)  
**To:** "Diane A. Minger" <dminger@tcnj.edu>

Carol,

Both the Political Science Department and the International Studies Program support the new minor in Russian Studies being proposed by Dean Rifkin. Area studies are quite important to both programs and the Russian Studies minor compliments existing academic programs in European Studies, Central Eurasian Studies and East Asian Studies. We feel that a Russian Studies minor may also help plans for a Chinese Studies program and, hopefully in the future, South Asian Studies. As a global power, Russia is important in world politics. The faculty members of both programs have unanimously voted to approve their respective support of Russian Studies. We find it to be a well-designed program that focuses existing College resources on an area of the world that current curricula do not adequately address.

Brian Potter

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Benjamin Rifkin" <rifkin@tcnj.edu>  
To: "David Blake" <blake@tcnj.edu>, "Celia Chazelle" <chazelle@tcnj.edu>, "Brian Potter" <potter@tcnj.edu>  
Cc: "Adriana Rosman-Askot" <arosman@tcnj.edu>, "Deborah Compte" <dcompte@tcnj.edu>, "Diane Minger" <dminger@TCNJ.EDU>  
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2011 9:23:25 PM GMT -05:00  
US/Canada Eastern  
Subject: Russian Studies Minor

Dear Colleagues:



Last semester you sent an e-mail to Debbie Compte confirming your department's/program's endorsement of the proposed new minor in Russian Studies.

That minor has been approved by the C&S Curriculum Committee and now must be moved on through Steering to the College-Wide Committee on Academic Programs.

To that end, could you please send a brief memo in writing, addressed to the Provost but sent to Diane M, signifying your department's or program's endorsement? We will append these memos to the proposal before sending it on to Steering and CAP.

Thanks.

Yours,

Ben

**Subject:** Re: Russian Studies Minor  
**From:** "Stuart G. Koch" <skoch@tcnj.edu>  
**Date:** Mon, 7 Feb 2011 15:11:43 -0500 (EST)  
**To:** Benjamin Rifkin <rifkin@tcnj.edu>  
**CC:** "Diane A. Minger" <dminger@tcnj.edu>

Dear Ben: (and by cc: Diane)

Brian reports that he gave one endorsement covering International Studies and Political Science to Diane. If you need something different or additional let me know.

Stu

Stuart G. Koch, PhD  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Political Science Department  
The College of New Jersey

Phone: 609-771-2274  
FAX: 609-637-5152

----- Original Message -----

From: "Benjamin Rifkin" <rifkin@tcnj.edu>  
To: "Stuart G. Koch" <skoch@tcnj.edu>  
Cc: "Diane Minger" <dminger@tcnj.edu>  
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2011 8:54:58 AM GMT -05:00  
US/Canada Eastern  
Subject: Russian Studies Minor

Dear Stu:

We're preparing the Russian Studies Minor for CAP - could you please give Diane a hard copy of your department's endorsement of the minor?

Just a couple of sentences in a memo would suffice.  
The memo should  
be addressed to the Provost, but given to Diane.

Thanks.

Ben