Proposal for an additional Undergraduate Minor in the Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures (ASLL) Program:

Minor in Russian and Eastern European Studies

UI Background and new Slavic B.A. and Minor programs at UI Peer Institutions

Recent shifting landscapes in the international global political spheres, in addition to major federal cut-backs in almost all US language and area studies degree programs, have prompted leading Slavic Departments to review and restructure their missions and degree programs. The UI Russian Program is no exception to this broad sweeping trend. Owing to a number of reasons, the pool of talented students pursuing the B.A. degree in Russian has receded the past few years. One of the factors contributing to this decline remains the high cost of study abroad in the Russian Federation. All Division of World Language, Literatures, and Cultures (DWLLC) departments strongly encourage their students earning a major or minor to study abroad; yet for students in Critical Language programs in particular, this element of the undergraduate linguistic and cultural training is irreplaceable.

The University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois (UIUC), University of North Carolina, Indiana University, University of Arizona, and University of Texas (Austin) all promote fairly new majors and minors in Slavic Studies or Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (REEES). At the UI over the past few years, we have seen substantial enrollment growth in certain Slavic courses taught in English. This surge, along with an increase in the number of Russian heritage speakers on campus, gives strong indication of a newly developing interest in the contemporary Slavic world among UI students. Two of these General Education courses, “Russia Today” and “Slavic Folklore” have averaged over 100 students and serve as an excellent recruitment vehicle to attract students to begin the study of Russian and Czech languages. The UI’s Office of International Programs has stated that one of its goals is to internationalize the curriculum, and we see the proposed minor as a contribution toward that effort.

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The current proposal plans to draw upon other valuable resources not only in CLAS, but in other UI colleges to attract students to the new minor. We have been fortunate in the Slavic program to have a strong history of direct collaboration with faculty and administration from the Colleges of Education, Engineering, Business, Medicine, and Public Health. In fact, many of our undergraduate students in our large General Education courses come from these colleges. We hope to build upon previous collaboration with several colleagues to discuss the possibility of cross-listing a few of their internationally-based courses that focus heavily on Russian and Eastern and Central Europe within our proposed minor in Russian and Eastern European Studies.
Proposed Minor in Russian and Eastern European Studies Requirements: 15 s.h. credits total

We note that the new minor does not carry a language requirement. However, given the interest in Slavic cultures, we see this minor as a way to attract students into our language courses.

The minor in Russian and Eastern European Studies requires a minimum of 15 s.h. with a least 12 s.h. (4 courses x 3 s.h.) of the courses offered by the Slavic Program listed below:

SLAV: 1131 Introduction to Russian Culture 3 s.h.
SLAV: 1132 Russia Today 3 s.h.

SLAV: 1450 Diversities of Eastern Europe: Culture, Art, and Politics 3 s.h.
SLAV: 1500 Ukraine, a Country at the Crossroads 3 s.h.
SLAV: 1531 Slavic Folklore 3 s.h.
SLAV: 1532 Religion and Culture of the Slavs 3 s.h.
SLAV: 2131 Women in Russian Society
SLAV: 2531 Topics in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
SLAV: 3082 Youth Subcultures after Socialism 3 s.h.
SLAV: 3100 East and West: Women in the Slavic World 3 s.h.
SLAV: 3131 Health Care and Health Reforms in Russia
SLAV: 3202 Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917 3 s.h.
POLI: 3410 Russian Foreign Policy 3 s.h.
POLI: 3413 Russian Politics 3 s.h.

Students must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 in all courses for the Minor. Coursework in the minor may not be taken pass/no pass.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will show a greater awareness of Russian culture and history.
2. Students will be able to describe recurring features from a particular literary period in Russia, as well as discuss and analyze its representative texts.
3. Students will be able to discuss the most important features and institutions of contemporary Russian society and their historical and cultural events.

Program Outcomes for Russian and East European Studies

1. The Slavic Program will be able to increase the enrollment of students who are seeking courses on Slavic literature, culture, and history.

2. A minor in Russian and Eastern European Studies will encourage students to complete the GE world languages requirement in the Slavic, inviting people to take first and second year language classes.
3. Many students from former republics of the Soviet Union and Russia will have opportunities to earn the minor in Russian and European Studies at the University of Iowa. The number of such students is growing. According to the International program in 2014, there were 30 such students who came to study to the University of Iowa. Please see statistical report at [http://issuu.com/iowainternational/docs/fall_2014_statistical_report_final/3](http://issuu.com/iowainternational/docs/fall_2014_statistical_report_final/3).