

November 18, 2010

TO: David Pershing
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

FR: 
John Francis
Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Interpretation of University Regulation 6-101: Undergraduate Studies and Degrees

In University Regulation 6-101, it states that "A department minor must be outside a student's major department." So, a student cannot receive a minor in the department from which he or she also receives a major. While generally this is a good and unproblematic policy, this is not the case for the Department of Languages and Literature. At our institution, this department is administratively unusual because it houses several distinct subject areas that, at many other institutions, constitute separate academic departments (e.g., French, German, Spanish, etc.). So, a narrow interpretation of the relevant passage in 6-101 would mean that a student could not, e.g., major in French and minor in Spanish. Clearly, this would be a perverse and undesirable situation.

As the designated Policy Owner of 6-101, and, per University Rule R1-001 (Section III.B.1.b), the individual charged with definitive interpretations of this policy, it is my determination that a student majoring in one of the subject areas in the Department of Languages and Literature is not prohibited from receiving a minor in a different subject area within the department.