

Proposal to Formally Establish a Department of English in the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)

Summary

City, University London's Senate is asked by the School of Arts and Social Sciences to consider and approve the proposal to formally establish a Department of English in SASS and to recommend to Council, at its meeting on the 8th of July 2017, that a new Department of English be established in SASS with effect from 1st of September 2017.

The School of Arts and Social Sciences Board of Studies considered and endorsed this proposal at its meeting on the 27th of April 2017.

One action required.

Recommended Action

Senate is asked to **recommend to Council for approval** the establishment of a Department of English in SASS.

Publication: Open

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City, University London's Senate is asked by the School of Arts and Social Sciences to consider and approve the proposal to formally establish a Department of English in SASS and to recommend to Council, at its meeting on the 8th of July 2017, that a new Department of English be established in SASS with effect from 1st of September 2017. Council will then be asked to consider and approve this proposal.

The School of Arts and Social Sciences Board of Studies considered and endorsed this proposal at its meeting on the 27th of April 2017. The minute excerpt is as follows:

Departmental sub units

A business case for the creation of English as a standalone department, rather than a centre within Journalism was presented and approved. **Action: BoS minutes to be forwarded to Governance Team so approval for this department can be requested at Senate.**

Department of English

The School of Arts and Social Sciences seeks to create a Department of English from the 1st of September 2017.

Central to the School's Strategic Plan is the development of a number of new subject areas in SASS, including English. The first year of the BA English programme launched in 2016/17 and has recruited close to target. Forty new FTEs will enter the programme in 2017/18, and the BA in English will rise over the next three years to a steady-state of 120 FTE.

The Centre of English, which includes the BA (alongside a range of small specialist masters programs in areas such as Creative Writing, Translation and Publishing), has been housed in the Department of Journalism for the past two years. After an initial recruitment phase at the launch of the subject area in 2015/16, the number of academic staff to support this subject area is being increased in phases, in accordance with the School Strategic Plan. By 2017/18, the Centre will have reached sufficient critical mass of staff and students to warrant launching as an autonomous academic department within SASS.

The School therefore now seeks to move the Centre of English, out of the Department of Journalism, which has been a temporary home, into a new Department of English.

This will demonstrate maturity in the subject area and will create an externally visible Department for the purposes of recruitment. This will be reflected in a dedicated web presence. It will enable us to establish a clear City brand for English, in a wider HE environment where competitors operate from the basis of distinct English and associated Departments. In addition, it will form a distinctive unit of academic activity in terms of future Research Excellence Framework exercises.

Dr Patricia Moran was recently appointed as the Head of Centre and Dr Moran would lead the Centre into its new Departmental status, and become Head of Department. To facilitate this transition, the Centre assumed financial and administrative autonomy within the Department of Journalism in 2016/17.

Consultation and Approval - Next Steps

SASS Board of Studies considered and approved this proposal on the 27th of April 2017.

City Senate is asked to consider and approve this proposal on the 18th of May 2017.

City Council will be asked to consider and approve this proposal on the 8th of July 2017.

Professor Theo Farrell, Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences

4 May 2017