



RUSA Resolution S20 - 01

Authors: Eleanor Meli

Sponsors: Academic Affairs

Resolution to Add a Student Representative to the Language Engagement Project Steering Committee

Whereas, the 2013 Census revealed that more than 30% of New Jersey residents speak a language other than English at home¹,

Whereas, the “World Languages at Rutgers - New Brunswick: A Proposal” mentions the possible creation of a compulsory 1 credit Language Exposure Requirement for all Rutgers students²,

Whereas, Fall 2019 was the first official semester of the newly created Language Engagement Project,

Whereas, the Language Engagement project seeks to create 1 credit interdisciplinary language modules, courses, and activities which foster language learning and help grow the culture of world languages at Rutgers,

Whereas, these classes are meant to embrace and nurture the language culture(s) of Rutgers students, whether they are heritage speakers, native speakers from other countries, or new learners of languages entirely different from their own,

¹ Astudillo, Carla. “About 2.6M People in N.J. Don't Speak English at Home, New Census Data Shows.” nj.com, December 7, 2017.

² World Languages at Rutgers- New Brunswick: A Proposal. Report. Language Requirement Task Force, Rutgers University- New Brunswick. 2017. P 32-37

Whereas, the Spring 2020 semester offers classes created by the Language Engagement Project under the course code 991³,

Whereas, these classes range from one credit language modules added to three credit classes meant to add linguistic dimension to the classroom, language exchanges, language mentoring, and language for travel classes,

Whereas, students ought to be involved in the planning and implementation of programs which impact them,

Whereas, there are currently no student members on the Language Engagement Project Steering Committee,

Be it hereby resolved, the Academic Affairs Committee shall create an application form to be advertised by the Academic Affairs Committee to previous students who took an LEP class and the Rutgers student body,

Be it hereby resolved, the Academic Affairs Committee shall convene (although any RUSA member who has not applied to this position is encouraged to attend) to review applications and vote to appoint one student to the Spring 2020 Language Engagement Project Steering Committee,

Be it hereby resolved, criteria in choosing a student representative on this committee shall be guided by, but not limited to: 1) interest in language learning and culture at Rutgers, 2) experience in world languages, 3) ability to attend the Spring LEP meeting, and 4) demonstrated leadership,

Be it hereby resolved, that this shall be accomplished at least one week before the date of the first Spring LEP Steering Committee (February 13th),

³Blum, Patricia. "Spring 2020 Courses - LEP." The Language Center. Accessed January 16, 2020.

Be it hereby resolved, that if asked by the LEP Steering Committee to procure a student representative for the upcoming school year, either the same student shall be chosen to return or similar guidelines will be implemented to find a new student representative.