



STANFORD

SCHOOL OF
HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

March 9, 2009

To: Committee for the Review of Undergraduate Majors *RS*

From: Richard Saller, Dean, School of Humanities and Sciences
Susan Stephens, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies *RS*

Subject: Closure of the undergraduate program in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities

The School of Humanities and Sciences has made the decision to close the undergraduate program, Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities (ISH). The relatively small number of majors (under ten annually), the fact that several of its tracks exist (Digital Humanities, Philosophy and Literature) in commensurate forms in other departments, and the faculty cost to other departments that contribute courses make it infeasible to continue at this time.

The very small number of Modern Thought and Literature Majors, no more than 1-2 annually, that were incorporated into ISH will be able to continue to receive their degrees through an Individually Designed Major. The director of MTL, Ursula Heise, has agreed that this makes good intellectual sense, and she is working to design a more focused set of core courses for students electing this course of study.

All currently declared majors will be able to complete their course of study. We have instructed the director of ISH, Grisha Freidin, to admit no future majors.



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HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

March 9, 2009

To: Committee on Graduate Studies

From: Richard Saller, Dean, School of Humanities and Sciences *RPS*
Susan Stephens, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies *SS*

Subject: Closure of the Masters program in the Graduate Program in Humanities

Last year the Committee on Graduate Studies determined that the program offered by Graduate Program in Humanities (within Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities) as a joint Ph. D. did not meet the current standards for joint degrees. Accordingly CGS passed the following motion:

The following motion on the Graduate Program in the Humanities was made and seconded: C-GS recommends that the relevant departments be instructed to reformulate the requirements for this degree program so it complies with the standards for the current joint degree programs. Alternatively, the Humanities graduate program should be reformulated in such a way that it would not have to go through the C-GS and Senate review process. The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

At this time, the School of Humanities and Sciences has elected not to reformulate the joint Ph. D. program. It has also made the decision to close the GPH Masters program, which was scheduled for review this academic year. The relatively small number of students (1-3 annually) and the faculty cost to other departments that contribute courses make it infeasible to continue at this time.

All currently declared Masters candidates will be able to complete their course of study. We have instructed the director of the Graduate Program in the Humanities, Grisha Freidin, to admit no future students to the MA program.