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Date: March 13, 2009

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael K. Mahoney'.

From: Michael K. Mahoney, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

To: Deidre Badejo, Dean, CLASS
Iliana Holbrook, Chair, Department of Modern Languages and Literature

Subject: MOU Meeting – B.A. in Spanish, B.A. in French

On February 17, 2009, I met with Diedre Badejo, Dean, CLASS; Gale Young, Associate Dean, CLASS; Jim Okutsu, Associate Dean, CLASS; Iliana Holbrook, Chair, Modern Languages and Literature; Monique Manopoulos, Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Literature; Aline Soules, Chair, CAPR; and Carl Bellonc, AVP Academic Programs and Graduate Studies to discuss the Program Review for the B.A. in Spanish and the B.A. in French and to develop an MOU as required by CAPR 9.

Since the submission of the CAPR Report there have been several changes. Dr. Manopoulos was hired to a tenure track position in French. A survey course in Spanish plus an Advance Spanish Conversation course was added to the curriculum.

At the end of Winter Quarter 2009, the Department will lose its FERP faculty member who taught French. Although there was a tenure track hire in French the Department believes they will still need lecturer help to fully offer the French major. However, with the budget crisis it is unclear if it will be possible to hire adequate lecturer support for French. Modern Languages and Literature has complex needs for hiring lecturers for majors and minors and would like to have stable support for this need.

The external reviewer's report was viewed as fair. The review expressed concern about advising but one tenure track faculty member was on leave during this period and one was new so faculty advising was hampered during the time of the reviewer's visit. The Department agrees with the reviewer's comment that the faculty is spread thin and that there is not enough money in its operating and expense budget. The reviewer would like to see more upper division courses offered more often but the Department does not have enough resources. The Department stated that majors need more upper division literature courses. The Department is seeking to balance 3rd and 4th year courses.

Students in French need to know if there will be sufficient 3rd and 4th year courses. The Department is willing to teach first year French courses online to help make time for 2nd and 3rd year courses. The Department is concerned that if low enrolled courses are cancelled it will not be able to adequately serve the French major. One faculty member can only do three levels at the same time. The faculty member has been doing the 4th

year via independent study. The Department stated they have 12 students in their 2nd year of French.

The Department would like to build better bridges to Teacher Education especially for its preparation of multilingual teachers. The Department turned in a Single Subject Preparation Program in Spanish that has been partially approved by CCTC at this time.

The Department offers a GE Language Cluster. The B.A. in Liberal Studies requirement for a language was recently dropped. The Department would like to see it reinstated.

Japanese and Tagalog have done well when offered but the Department is dependent upon the availability of qualified lecturers.

The Department was encouraged by the Dean to look at a more creative approach such as collaborating with other areas including International Studies, Latin American Studies, and Business and looking at different ways of delivering language instruction. These ways might include French courses taught in English so they would be accessible to non-French speakers or courses taught in a bilingual mode. Another possibility is reading level French for majors in Business and Science.

The CAPR Report made the following observations in its analysis of the B.A. in Spanish and the B.A. in French: 1) the Department is severely understaffed, 2) the Department's viability should not depend upon the establishment or reestablishment of a language requirement in other degrees and programs, 3) the "small" language requirement (i.e., strong focus on literature) may not be effective if the goal is to teach people language skills, 4) the Department may be attempting to teach more languages than it can support, and 5) while the revitalization of Spanish and French is recommended there is also a need for a secure and viable five year strategic plan.

The results of the MOU meeting are as follows:

1. The CAPR comment on the Department being understaffed was made before the tenure track hire in French. The Department is not understaffed at this time.
2. The CAPR observation that the Department must not rely upon a language requirement in other programs in order to ensure its own viability is well taken. The Department of Modern Languages and Literature (MLL) needs to define a future for itself that is not dependent upon language requirements in other degrees.
3. The other CAPR observations point out the need, strongly supported by the Dean's Office, for MLL to develop a strategic plan. This plan should deal with what mix of languages will be taught, an exploration of opportunities for heritage language instruction, how language instruction will be delivered, and the future of the Department as a whole. Thus, the Department is requested to work with the Dean's Office to develop a creative five year strategic plan that addresses these

and other issues. The plan should take into account student needs and interests. The plan should also address the need to develop sufficient majors in French in order to justify the recent tenure track hire in French. The revised five year plan should be submitted to the Dean's Office by July 1, 2009.

4. The MLL Department is encouraged to work with the Dean's Office to further implement the assessment of its student learning outcomes for Spanish and French.

AVP Carl Bellone and I would like to thank the Department and its faculty for their strong efforts to offer quality modern languages to a wider variety of our students. We would also like to thank the CAPR members for their time and forthright report.

cc: Aline Soules
Carl Bellone
Sue Opp
Monique Manopolous