

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAYWARD

DESIGNATION CODE: 97-98 CAPR 7

DATE SUBMITTED: June 12, 1998

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning & Resources

SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review for the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

ACTION

REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the Program Review of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures offers the B.A. degree in French and in Spanish, minors in American Sign Language, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. The department offers elementary language courses in Filipino and Latin as well as elementary and intermediate courses in Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese. The department offers options in Liberal Studies, and many of its courses satisfy general education requirements. In fall of 1997 the department had nine full-time faculty serving 39 majors with an FTE of 287.

Professor Carol Brown of the Department of Foreign Languages at CSU, Sacramento visited the department on May 2, 1997, and she submitted her report on May 9. The department submitted its response to Dr. Brown's report on December 2, 1997. CAPR met with faculty from the department to discuss this five-year program review on April 16, 1998. The complete report is available in the Academic Senate office.

Dr. Brown noted that the department "offers a remarkably broad and varied program for its size" and that its faculty "are active and interested in the future of the department" and "work well together." She concluded that the department "provides a service for the rest of the university" and that "in this time of internationalizing the curriculum, it is critically important that this service continue." Although she acknowledged that "the faculty is realistic in recognizing that impending retirements will probably cause reduction in program offerings," she also pointed out that "the program in Asian languages could profitably be increased." With respect to its major programs, Dr. Brown recommended careful scheduling of courses for the French major and the introduction of an intensive review course in first-year Spanish. With respect to the department's minor programs, she noted that "only one person teaches in most of them and when that person retires the program will be terminated." Dr. Brown recommended the expansion of programs in Asian languages, especially Mandarin Chinese, and she recommended the addition of computers to the language lab, without which "the department will be unable to take advantage of many contemporary textbooks and teaching materials."

The department agreed with many of Dr. Brown's comments and suggestions. Plans are underway to add more courses in translation both to better serve general education students and

to facilitate scheduling of courses in major fields. They hope to have the resources to start a program in the Asian Studies, and they agree that a language lab equipped with computers should be a priority.

CAPR recommends that the programs in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures continue, with the recognition that the department may have to eliminate some minor programs as faculty retirements mandate.