



The University of Georgia

University Council
Athens, Georgia 30602

March 13, 2009

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2008-2009

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Ms. Jamie Beggerly

Graduate Student Representative – Ms. Amrita Veliyath

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for a new prefix: PASH, Pashto, will be an agenda item for the March 20, 2009, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

David E. Shipley, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
Professor Jere W. Morehead

*Approved,
Head Department
3-17-09*

16 March 2009

Dear Dean Ruppensburg,

I would like to request a new class prefix: PASH for PASHTO 1001-1002 and 2003-2004 Elementary and Intermediate Pashto, covering the fundamentals of grammar, pronunciation, reading, composition, and conversation of Pashto.

I would like this prefix because I was recently informed that I have received a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) grant (from the Fulbright program-Institute for International Education) to bring a Pashto teacher to UGA in order to teach it for 2008-9. It is important for UGA to teach Pashto since it is considered by the federal government to be a language that is critical for national security. There are 40 million speakers of Pashto in Afghanistan and Pakistan, among whom are the Taliban. Unfortunately, there are only a handful of universities in the country who teach Pashto.

It is appropriate for the Religion department to offer Pashto because in modern language pedagogy there is now a consensus that aspects of a people's culture should be taught together with the language. In the case of Pashto speakers, the Islamic dimension of their culture is crucial.

This federal funding will pay the complete salary of a native speaker of Pashto to teach two courses each per semester for one year. (Both Prof. Honerkamp, who has some knowledge of Pashto, and I will supervise his instruction.) Fulbright also supplies the teacher, who is fluent in both his native language and English and is also skilled in methods of modern spoken-language teaching. The teacher then must return to his or her country after one year. Fortunately, since the program is tied to national security, there is a strong probability that the funding for the program will continue. In addition, we have been given assurances that we will be "grandfathered" into the program; so that, although we need to reapply to the program each year, we will have relative security that each year we will be granted funding for a new teacher.

In spite of the strong likelihood of continued federal funding for this and other FLTA positions, I see these as only a stepping stone to gaining major long-term federal funding for instructorships in these languages. Such long-term federal funding will be able to provide the foundation for language programs that will be very useful for students in many disciplines across the campus, which will be especially important if UGA is to gain a solid reputation as a first tier research institution whose scope is truly global.

At this time I would like to also request temporary approval of the prefix so that I can meet the March 17, 2009 deadline for the CAPA submission of the courses.

Regards,

Dr. Alan Godlas
Associate Professor

Approval:

Dr. Sandy D. Martin
Department Head