



Item: AS: A-2

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TERMINATION OF BACHELOR OF GERMAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (16.0501)

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Request the approval of termination of Bachelor of German Language and Literature (16.0501).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Office of the University Provost has always worked with each college to identify programs which no longer justify the cost of instruction on the basis of enrollment, demand, centrality to the mission of the University, or which no longer meet the needs of the citizens of Florida by providing a viable educational or occupational objective. This year we have been involved with an initiative of the Florida Board of Governors and the Council of Academic Vice Presidents on Articulation, Coordination and Coherence of Academic Delivery across the State University System. Our BA in German Language and Literature was one degree identified as having low degree productivity over a five-year period.

At the present time there are three students enrolled as majors in this program, and these students will be advised appropriately. German language courses will still be offered so enrollment will not be impacted and students will still have this option for the University Foreign Language Requirement.

The termination of this degree program will have no adverse effect on students or associated faculty members.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Upon approval by the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended actions are part of an effort to remove inefficient or non-productive programs from the University degree inventory. Since these programs no longer meet student needs they essentially have no current enrollment and are not drawing faculty and other resources, very modest savings may be expected.

**Supporting Documentation March 28, 2011, Memo from Dr. Michael J. Horswell
Chair, Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature**


Presented by:

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To: Dr. Manjunath Pendakur, Dean
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

From: Michael J. Horswell, Chair 
Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature

Date: March 28, 2011

RE: Executive Summary for the Termination of the German BA degree

The recommendation to terminate the German BA program (CIP CODE: 160501) was approved on February 18, 2011 in the UUPC. We are fulfilling the action plan submitted earlier, including deleting references to the program from all university catalogs, websites, etc. As indicated in our action plan, we continue to offer a German minor and German language classes.

1. Rationale for termination:

a.) The German BA program has followed national trends of decline for the past several years, producing only one-two graduates with German degrees each year. There are currently only 3 active majors since we began phasing out the major last year. Despite this low number of majors, our German faculty has diligently delivered a language and culture program that produces steady FTE and several German minors each year. For example, in 2007-08, they produced 596 in lower division SCH, nearly 5% of our department's lower division production. There are currently about 15-20 active German minors. This year, the enrollments in German are very strong and we have several new Linguistics majors who will concentrate in German as part of that degree.

b.) The Department has created a strategic plan for the future that envisions the German Minor curriculum being folded into a larger curricular effort focusing on interdisciplinary studies and foreign languages. European Studies or Global/International Studies as an interdisciplinary degree will provide an outlet for German language students (and others) to gain the proficiency and cross-cultural competence of the old major, but with the competitive advantage of being prepared for an ever more integrated Europe and globalized world.

2. Indicate on which campus(es) the program is being offered and the extent to which the proposed termination has had or will have an impact on enrollment, enrollment planning, and/or the reallocation of resources.

The BA program was offered on the Boca Raton campus. Given how we plan to continue offering the German minor, and the low enrollments in the major over the last few years, there is virtually no impact on enrollments. Students will continue to be able to satisfy their University Foreign Language requirement by taking the German language courses that have been fully enrolled historically. The tenured faculty member who used to teach in the German BA program has been effectively reallocated to the Linguistics BA and MA degree. Our instructor delivers the German language classes and minor classes. We occasionally employ a GTA from the MA in Linguistics program to teach beginning German language classes as part of an academic exchange we have with the German-American Federation.

3. Provide an explanation of the manner in which the University intends to accommodate any students or faculty who are currently active in the program scheduled to be terminated. State what steps have been taken to inform students and faculty of the intent to terminate the program?

The three students who are currently enrolled will be advised to either change to the Linguistics major or to complete their German major by studying abroad with approved FAU partners.

4. Provide data (and cite source) on the gender and racial distribution of students and faculty. For faculty also list the rank and tenure status of all affected individuals.

1 Associate Professor of Linguistics and German (white female).

1 Instructor of German (white female).

Students: one Hispanic female and two white males

Source: Departmental records

5. Identify any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of females, minorities, faculty, and students.

We see no significant impact on faculty and students of any particular race or gender resulting from this termination of degree, since we re-allocated the faculty resources as described above and students are being encouraged to complete their degrees as indicated.