MEMO

TO: Mary Beth Heston, Director, Asian Studies
FROM: James Newhard, Chair, Department of Classics
DATE: October 27, 2010
SUBJECT: Proposed Curricular Changes to Introductory/Intermediate Asian Language courses

The Department of Classics met recently to discuss the proposal to change the number of contact hours in introductory and intermediate (101-202) courses in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, and Hebrew from 3 to 4. Given that the proposal does not impinge directly upon courses currently offered by the department, the Department of Classics is not opposed to this measure.
October 26, 2010

Dear Mary Beth,

The department of French, Francophone and Italian Studies strongly supports your proposal to require a 4th hour of instruction in all Asian languages. We commend your efforts because we are aware of the length of time it takes to achieve a fairly reasonable degree of general speaking, reading and writing proficiency in these Asian languages.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Godwin Okebaram Uwah, Chair

Department of French, Francophone and Italian Studies
FW: Asian Studies

This is the letter from Nancy Nenno, Chair, German and Slavic Studies, indicating their support of the Asian Languages proposal. Thanks, Mary Beth

Mary Beth Heston
Professor of Art History
Director of Asian Studies
OFFICE ADDRESS: 102 Communications Museum
MAILING ADDRESS: 301 Simons Center, College of Charleston Charleston SC 29424 TEL: 843.953.6313 FAX: 843.953.8212 EMAIL: hestonm@cofc.edu

Original Message

From: Nenno, Nancy P
Sent: Thu 10/21/2010 10:04 AM
To: Heston, Mary E
Cc: Cohen, David J
Subject: Asian Studies

Dear Mary Beth,

The Department of German and Slavic Studies is in full support of the proposed changes to the Asian Studies minor. Best,

Nancy P. Nenno
Associate Professor, German Chair
Department of German and Slavic Studies
College of Charleston
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424-0001
Ph. 843.953.5464 Fax: 843.953.0821

Homepage: http://people.cofc.edu/~nennon/nennonpage.html
October 22, 2010

Dear Members of the Curriculum Committee:

As Chair of Hispanic Studies, I hereby submit my strong and enthusiastic support of the proposal submitted by Drs. Mary Beth Heston, Director of Asian Studies, and Martin Perlmutter, Director of Jewish Studies, to increase language instruction for Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese and Hebrew to four contact hours per week.

During my four years as Head of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at The Citadel from 2006-10, I oversaw a department that also housed a Chinese language and culture program. During that time, we were faced with the disproportionate difficulty of Chinese compared to the more “traditional” languages of French, German and Spanish, and we consequently considered very seriously the modification of elementary and intermediate Chinese courses from 3 credit hours to 4 credits each (we ultimately opted not to do so given the fledgling state of the Chinese program and the tight academic schedules of cadets). All the research and evidence available on proficiency acquisition demands for the various languages, as Drs. Heston and Perlmutter accurately and appropriately outline in their proposal, clearly show that the instruction of languages such as those included in this proposal must provide students with greater contact hours if proficiency is to approach the same level as French, German, Italian and Spanish, among others. The change from 3 contact hours to 4 per week for Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese and Hebrew will establish greater consistency in proficiency outcomes across languages in LCWA, and is a very logical and necessary change given the curricular goals.

Sincerely yours,

Mark P. Del Mastro
Chair and Professor of Hispanic Studies
delmastromp@cofc.edu