



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Office of the Dean

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February 10, 2010

Danaya Wright, Chair, Academic Policy Council
Bernard Mair, Associate Provost and Chair of University Curriculum Committee
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-3175

Dear Drs. Danaya Wright and Bernard Mair:

In 2008, the Linguistics Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) began the process to request to become the Department in Linguistics. I support the request. The following are the highlights from the supporting documents that make a strong case as to why the change should be approved. For all intents and purposes, the Linguistics Program in CLAS functions as a department. They have their own budget, staff, space, tenure lines, MA and PhD degrees, undergraduate major and minor. Over the past decade, they have developed into a substantive independent unit and now operate in the mode of a department, so that a change in status would not require any additional resources at this point.

The Linguistics Program at the University of Florida was inaugurated in 1969. The graduate program is the same age, having granted its first M.A. in 1970 and first Ph.D. in 1973. The undergraduate program, which was originally an interdisciplinary 'concentration', began as a BA program in 1988. Twelve years ago, linguistics was a program with only 2½ budgeted lines and 20 associated lines. At that time there were some 65 undergraduate majors and 43 graduate students. The Linguistics Program has seen significant development since then. Since its beginning, they have more than doubled their undergraduate enrollment, increased the diversity of their course offerings, and developed new strengths.

The current faculty consists of 11½ faculty lines, 13 affiliated faculty linguists in other departments, and 8 lecturers in their service programs. The graduate program in Linguistics currently has 24 MA and 32 PhD students, and has graduated approximately 200 MAs and 100 PhDs since 1970. These graduates are employed all over the world, some at major institutions, and contribute actively to the study of language and languages. The current undergraduate enrollment is 157 majors (not including double majors), plus 49 minors in linguistics and TESL. The number of undergraduates graduating each year has more than doubled from 21 in AY2001-2 to 44 in AY2006-7.

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The rationale for the change in status for linguistics is that it would put UF on an equal footing with other AAU institutions regarding linguistics. Other AAU Public Universities have departments of linguistics, including Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, UMass-Amherst, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio State, Texas-Austin, UNC Chapel Hill, Washington, Wisconsin, and several campuses of the University of California. UF's program, if made into a department, would be the only one in the southern region between Austin, Texas and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. UF Linguistics' degree offerings are in line with or exceed offerings from comparable institutions.

As stated above, the current state of the Linguistics Program requires no additional resources and the cost-free change will enable the program to maximize the promotion of their faculty, facilities, and resources. Linguistics is a central part of UF's vision of fostering an interdisciplinary and international perspective. The Linguistics Program is also a major player in helping to improve the English language skills of tomorrow's academic leaders. The recognition of the Linguistics Program with departmental status will acknowledge the role that linguistics plays in UF's strategic plan.

In my view, the faculty in the Linguistics Program have provided a strong case as I highlighted above and included with the attached supporting documents. Included with this letter are supporting documents from the College Curriculum Committee and the College Faculty Council. Let me know if you need any additional information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D'Anieri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "A".

Paul D'Anieri, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

CLAS Curriculum Committee Meeting

26 March 2008

Present: David Julian (Chair), Kendall Broad, Robert Buchler, Sheila Dickinsen, Galia Hatav, Gillian Lord, Bernard Mair, Gene Wittmer

1. Chinese Buddhism

Dickinsen reported that she had talked to the Department Chair to express the Committee's misgivings about the statements concerning student absences and other issues.

2. Proposal for a Minor in Sustainability Studies

Prof. Leslie Thiele (Political Science) and 3 undergraduate students (Ezell, Peters and Hochmuth) were at hand to answer questions about their proposal.

It was suggested that "number of credit hours" be changed to "number of courses" because the listed courses has varying credit hours.

After a few questions regarding the administrative support of this interdisciplinary program and about advising a motion was made by Schwartz/Buchler to approve the program. Approved by acclamation.

3. Proposal to rename "Program in Linguistics" to "Department in Linguistics".

Galia Hatav presented the history and merits of the case.

Motion to approve Schwartz/Broad. Approved by acclamation.

4. PCB 5317

David Julian requested clarifications on the number of lecture hours to conform with our previously adopted relation of lecture and lab hours to credit hours.

Motion to table Gillian/Mair. Approved by acclamation.

5. REL 3xxx

David Julian noted that the assigned reading was very broad and interdisciplinary in nature. The question arose whether the course was one related to religion or interdisciplinary.

Caroline Wiltshire

From: John Leavey [jpl@english.ufl.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 8:05 AM
To: Glover, Joe
Cc: facultycouncil@clas.ufl.edu; Caroline Wiltshire; Paul Lee Robinson
Subject: Request to Change Linguistics Program to Linguistics Department

18 March 2008

Joe Glover, Interim Dean
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2014 Turlington Hall
University of Florida

Dear Joe,

At its meeting on 17 March 2008, the Faculty Council considered the proposal to change the Linguistics Program to the Linguistics Department. The Council unanimously and enthusiastically supported this change.

Cordially,
John Leavey
Chair, Faculty Council

Proposal to rename “Program in Linguistics” to “Department of Linguistics” (numbers/affiliations updated December 2009)

Summary: For all intents and purposes, the Linguistics Program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences functions as a department. We have our own budget, staff, space, tenure lines, MA and PhD degrees, undergraduate major and minor. Over the past decade, we have developed into a substantive independent unit and we now operate in the mode of a department, so that a change in status would not require any additional resources at this point. Nonetheless, we are still a program, although achieving departmental status has long been a prominent goal.

History: The Linguistics Program at the University of Florida was inaugurated in 1969. Our graduate program is the same age, having granted its first M.A. in 1970 and first Ph.D. in 1973. The undergraduate program, which was originally an interdisciplinary ‘concentration’, began as a BA program in 1988. Ten years ago, we were a program with only 2½ budgeted lines and 20 associated lines. At that time there were some 65 undergraduate majors and 43 graduate students. The Linguistics Program has seen significant development since then. We increased our faculty lines by bringing over three linguists from other departments (Anthropology, Classics, and AALL) and by hiring in strategic areas. We have more than doubled our undergraduate enrollment, increased the diversity of our course offerings, and developed new strengths.

Current Program: Our current faculty consists of 11½ faculty lines, 13 affiliated faculty linguists in other departments, and 8 lecturers in our service programs. Our graduate program in Linguistics currently has 24 MA and 32 PhD students, and has graduated approximately 200 MAs and 100 PhDs since 1970. These graduates are employed all over the world, some at major institutions, and contribute actively to the study of language and languages. Our current undergraduate enrollment is 157 majors (not including double majors), plus 49 minors in linguistics and TESL. The number of undergraduates graduating each year has more than doubled from 21 in AY2001-2 to 44 in AY2006-7.

We offer graduate and undergraduate courses in four major areas of linguistics:

1. **core/theoretical:** phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, historical linguistics, semantics/pragmatics; studying the structure of languages (sounds, words, phrases, meanings), and cross-linguistic variation and typology of those structures.
2. **sociolinguistics:** discourse analysis and pragmatics, language variation, bilingualism, anthropological linguistics, gender and language; examining the use and variation of language in its social and political contexts.
3. **applied linguistics:** second language acquisition, teaching English as a second language (TESL); testing and using theoretical results from areas 1. and 2. above to understand and improve language learning.
4. **experimental linguistics:** experimental phonetics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics; involving laboratory work to understand language production, perception, and processing in the brain.

Our most recent area of development is in experimental linguistics, with our hires of Dr. Edith Kaan in 2003 and Dr. Wind Cowles in 2005, both of whom specialize in psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics. These scholars specialize in laboratory linguistics, using Eye tracking and ERP technologies; in addition, Dr. Kaan and her students use the fMRI equipment available at the McKnight Brain Institute. Cowles and Kaan are members of the campus-wide Language and the

Brain interest group, which brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines working on the cognitive and neural underpinnings of language (<http://web.csd.ufl.edu/langbrain/>). They have developed our curriculum to include new courses such as Lin2704 Language as a Cognitive System (S), Lin4790 Brain and Language, and Lin6796 Cognitive Neuroscience of Language.

The Linguistics Program also runs three ESL programs that serve the university community: Academic Spoken English (ASE), Academic Written English (AWE), and the English Language Institute (ELI). The first two train current international graduate students in the skills they need for teaching and writing at the graduate level. The third provides English instruction for non-degree students, who may then apply to UF. All three programs contribute to research within the program on how adults learn a second language, specifically English, and on more effective ways to teach English to non-native speakers. Such expertise is only becoming more important at the state, national, and international levels, as English becomes a global language.

Affiliated faculty linguists reside in CLAS in the Departments of Spanish & Portuguese, Languages, Literatures & Cultures, and English. They participate fully in the Linguistics Program, however, with voting rights and graduate faculty status, and most teach one course a year for Linguistics. The Linguistics Program naturally has close ties with the home departments of these affiliated faculty, as well as with departments whose faculty have related interests (Anthropology, Psychology, Communication Disorders). We also interface with most of the interdisciplinary Centers in CLAS, such as The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research and The Center for Jewish Studies, as well as with other colleges and institutes. Our connection with The College of Education (COE) is principally through our English Language Institute, which COE uses for observations and as a research site, and our graduate certificate in TESL, which COE students often earn.

Furthermore, the study of language and its use is fundamentally internationally-oriented, and our linguists are active participants in area studies programs and in research with an international focus, including language revitalization in the Andes, the development of English skills of non-native speakers, language processing in Dutch, and the sounds and structures of languages in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Colleagues in linguistics interface with the Asian Studies Program, the Latin American Center, the Center for European Studies, and the African Studies Center. For example, we offer courses on the structure of various languages, including African and Asian languages, and two of our affiliated members work with The Center for European Studies in providing language teaching training to high school language teachers around the state in an annual summer camp on the UF campus. The majority of our faculty, both budgeted and affiliated, are involved with an Area studies center/program. By virtue of what we do, we are inherently involved in internationalization, and area studies can be considered a fifth strength of the Program.

Rationale for Change: Departmental status for linguistics would put UF on an equal footing with other AAU institutions regarding linguistics. Other AAU Public Universities have departments of linguistics, including Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, UMass-Amherst, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio State, Texas-Austin, UNC Chapel Hill, Washington, Wisconsin, and several campuses of the University of California. UF's program, if made into a department, would be the only one in the southern region between Austin, Texas and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. UF Linguistics' degree offerings are in line with or exceed offerings from comparable institutions.

Institutional Organization of Comparable Institutions

	Program	Department	Minor	BA	MA	Ph.D.
Illinois		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Iowa		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michigan		✓	✓	✓		✓
Ohio		✓		✓	✓	
Pittsburgh		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UC, Berkeley		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UCLA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNC		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UTAustin		✓		✓	✓	✓
Washington		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wisconsin		✓		✓	✓	✓
UF	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

In addition to making UF's unit in Linguistics comparable to those at our peer institutions, one intangible benefit of departmental status would be the increased prestige and stability implied by the term. For example, we expect departmental status to enhance our ability to attract high quality graduate students and to retain our high quality faculty, while the perception of a Program as potentially impermanent hampers our efforts in these areas. We recently (January 2008) underwent an external review, and the reviewer's report concurred:

“The change of name would not simply be a symbolic move, but could greatly affect both morale and the success of the department. Virtually everyone we spoke to mentioned having heard that linguistics was “just a program.” Undergraduates wondered if this meant that the program had less stability than a “real” department. Graduate students had wondered whether they should seek an M.A. or Ph.D. from a “program” when they had also been accepted into a “department” at another university. The faculty and we two reviewers are concerned about how the outside world might interpret the name and wonder why it is only a program. We suspect that the name “Linguistics Program” sounds deficient in some way and might, therefore, adversely affect how external colleagues view the unit, which in turn can affect not only the placement of its PhDs, but the actual ranking of the program. We believe that the program could best realize its goals if it were to be renamed the Department of Linguistics.” Report from Professors Larry Hyman and John Lipski, 2/21/08, p. 8.

Furthermore, the current state of the Linguistics Program means that no additional resources would be necessary; this cost-free change will enable us to maximize the promotion of our faculty, facilities, and resources.

Departmental status would also provide recognition of our contribution to the University's goals. We feel that linguistics is a central part of UF's vision of fostering an interdisciplinary and international perspective. The Linguistics Program is also a major player in helping to improve the English language skills of tomorrow's academic leaders. We believe that the recognition of the Linguistics Program with departmental status will acknowledge the role that linguistics plays in UF's strategic plan, and will allow us to provide stability in our support for other units and for our service programs; our ability to model interdisciplinary cooperation across units will continue and be strengthened by departmental status. The increased visibility of departmental status will also further strengthen our ability to contribute to UF's missions, both locally and globally.

Changes necessary:

Curricular: None. Linguistics already has curriculum approved and in place for two minors (Linguistics & TESL), a major, a graduate certificate in TESL, MA and PhD programs.

Financial: None. We have salary, OPS, and OE to maintain our program at its current size. (We currently have letterhead/business cards that state only “Linguistics”, rather than specifying Program or Department, so there would be no additional expense there either).

Governance: No change in governance is foreseen. According to our by-laws, the members of the Linguistics unit include full-time faculty members of the University with appointments in Linguistics, affiliate faculty budgeted in related departments, and personnel employed in service units or on grants at a faculty rank; “The right to vote on all matters is granted to regular and affiliate faculty members, except on tenure and promotion which, following a long-standing tradition, is the exclusive right of tenured faculty members who have an appointment in a department and are of rank above those being considered.”

Approvals:

The faculty budgeted in and affiliated with Linguistics voted on the question of becoming a department at our faculty meeting January 24, 2008. The vote was 29 in favor, 0 against.

The Humanities Chairs & Social and Behavior Sciences Chairs were consulted:

OKs were received from chairs of Departments of African & Asian Languages & Literatures, Anthropology, Classics, Communication Sciences and Disorders, English, Germanic & Slavic Studies, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, Romance Languages & Literatures, Sociology. No Objections.

Appendix**Current Faculty**

Tenure/Tenure Track:

Budgeted in Linguistics (10.5): Diana Boxer, Wind Cowles, MJ Hardman, Galia Hatav, Brent Henderson, Edith Kaan, Virginia LoCastro, Fiona McLaughlin (.50), Eric Potsdam, Ratee Wayland, Caroline Wiltshire (also Emeritus D. Gary Miller, retired 1/31/08)

Non Tenure Track (1): Paula Golombek

Affiliated Tenure/Tenure Track: (with departmental homes) (12.5): Theresa Antes (LLC), Helene Blondeau (LLC), James Essegbey (LLC), Hana Filip (LLC), Youssef Haddad (LLC), Benjamin Hebblethwaite (LLC), Gillian Lord (S&P), Matondo Masangu (LLC), Fiona McLaughlin (.50LLC), Andrea Pham (LLC), David Pharies (S&P), Roger Thompson (English), Ann Wehmeyer (LLC)

Affiliated Lecturers: (8)

Todd Allen (ELI), Lia Brenneman (ELI), Alison Camacho (ELI), Steve Flocks (AWE/ELI), Megan Forbes (ELI), Jules Gliesche (ASE), Patti Moon (ELI), Gordon Tapper (ASE)