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January 3, 2007 **REVISED**

To: Phyllis Wise, Provost
Ana Mari Cauce, Executive Vice Provost
Office of the Provost, Box 351237

From: Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean
Melissa Austin, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

RE: Review of the Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies

At its meeting of November 2, 2006, the Graduate School Council met with members of the team that reviewed the Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies (Diana I. Behler, Professor, Departments of Germanics and Comparative Literature (Committee Chair); Julia R. Herschensohn, Professor and Chair, Department of Linguistics; Raymond Jonas, Professor, Department of History), Ellen M. Kaisse, Divisional Dean, Arts and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, Janice M. DeCosmo, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, and Anthony Geist, Professor and Chair, Division of Spanish and Portuguese.

The last review of this unit was conducted in 1993-1994 before Spanish and Portuguese Studies and French and Italian Studies were designated as separate Divisions. Graduate admissions to these programs were suspended in 1999. Faculty in the Division of Spanish and Portuguese submitted a proposal in 2000 to establish the M.A. in Hispanic Studies. After a review conducted by the Graduate School, the Board of Regents granted authority to the Division to offer this degree, effective September 2001. The degree program was granted provisional status with a review to occur in the 2005-2006 academic year. This review was the first comprehensive evaluation of the degree programs since the Division was established. The review committee, including its external members (Malcolm Compitello, Professor and Head, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Arizona, and Susan Kirkpatrick, Professor (Emeritus), Department of Literature, University of California at San Diego), held its formal on-site review on February 14-15, 2006.

The review committee was impressed by the leadership and energy of the Division, both at the graduate and undergraduate level, and was pleased by the practical efforts being made in working towards its future. The review committee did express concern for the Division's autonomy, noting that the unit is administratively still part of the Department of Romance Languages, but that for all intents and purposes, the Division operates as a separate academic unit. The students in the program are satisfied with their experience and are able to get jobs after graduating. The review committee encouraged the Division's interest in developing a doctoral program, but recommended that it be approached in increments over a period of 5 years because a broadly based interdisciplinary program would require additional funding. The Department

successfully completed one of two searches, hiring a tenure-track assistant professor of Latin American Colonial Literature. The search for Language Program Director has been carried over to this year. A problem with teaching the Portuguese courses was identified due to the loss of a critical instructor and efforts to secure a replacement are needed, and the review committee recommended in their report that the Division partner with Latin American Studies to hire an expert in Portuguese language and culture. The review committee noted a serious over-dependence on contract faculty who are hired as temporary instructors. The committee found that the Division takes advantage of the facilities at the Simpson Center and makes good use of its ties with the community to obtain resources for enhancing program offerings. The Division also has been working to develop closer and more productive relationships with other academic units. In their written report, the review committee also recommended that the Division should continue its efforts to gain community and business support, that it reorganize and professionalize student advising services, and that it mentor junior faculty more effectively.

The Division Chair reported that directions for the program's future include a \$250,000 endowed professorship with the University of Lyon, Spain, to be awarded in installments over 2 years. In addition, the Cervantes Center Institute opened six weeks ago. This Center is operating as a linguistic and cultural outreach initiative of the Spanish government. It is the first on the West Coast and at a U.S. university, and has many cultural activities planned. The Chair also reported on plans to write a cooperative textbook with a Spanish resource center in the Department of Spanish Ministry and Administration. The Division has formed a committee to consider revisions to the curriculum, including coordinating the sequence of the language courses and ensuring that students are moving through the program appropriately. In addition, the Division is exploring ways to scale back its reliance on temporary faculty.

During the council discussion, the GPSS President was pleased to hear of improvements in diversity in the Division. The Divisional Dean stated this program review's report and response to be one of the most constructive in her experience. Although the College is unable to grant a search for a faculty in Portuguese at this time, it has authorized a search in language pedagogy at the senior level. The Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education also applauded the unit for its constructive steps taken since the time the committee's report was submitted. In addition to the challenges of creating a new Ph.D. program, the Council discussed the large undergraduate service teaching load of Division, and suggested that it should devote scholarly activities to faculty lines, and assign service learning courses to senior lecturers.

The Graduate School Council recommended granting continuing status for the B.A. and M.A. degree programs, with the next review to occur during the 2015-2016 academic year. We concur with this recommendation.

Enclosure

c: Ron Irving, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Ellen M. Kaisse, Divisional Dean, Arts and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences
Edward Taylor, Dean and Vice Provost, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Janice M. DeCosmo, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Anthony Geist, Professor and Chair, Division of Spanish and Portuguese
Division of Spanish and Portuguese Review Committee
The Graduate School Council
Kimberly Friese, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School