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March 4, 2015

To: Robert C. Stacey, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

From: David L. Eaton, Vice Provost and Dean
Rebecca Aanerud, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

RE: Review of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature (2014-2015)

This memo outlines the recommendations from the review of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature in the College of Arts and Sciences. Detailed comments on the review can be found in the documents that were part of the following formal review proceedings:

- Charge meeting between review committee, department, and administrators (April 22, 2014)
- Department of Asian Languages and Literature self-study (September 2, 2014)
- Site visit (October 20-21, 2014)
- Review committee report (November 14, 2014)
- Graduate & Professional Student Senate Report (December 17, 2014)
- Departmental response to the review committee report (January 7, 2015)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (February 5, 2015)

The review committee consisted of:

Karen Zagona, Professor, UW Department of Linguistics (Review Committee Chair)
Naomi B. Sokoloff, Professor, UW Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
Kirk Denton, Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, The Ohio State University
Alisa Freedman, Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Oregon
Stephanie Jamison, Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California Los Angeles

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature offers the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. It offers undergraduate programs (both a major and a minor) in four areas: a) Chinese, b) Japanese, c) Korean, and d) South Asian and Buddhist Studies. The M.A. and Ph.D. programs offered are: a) Chinese, b) Japanese, c) South Asian, and d) Buddhist Studies.

A subcommittee of the Graduate School Council presented findings and recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on February 5, 2015. After discussion, the Council recommended a review in ten years (2024-2025) for all the department's degree programs. Specific observations and recommendations regarding the program include the following.

Program Strengths

- The department is extremely successful in its academic mission, with excellent teaching and program offerings.
- Faculty research is strong, and the department is widely known and respected nationally, considered among the strongest of its kind in the country.
- The department's Chinese, Japanese, and South Asian programs have been and continue to be among the best in the country.
- It is known as one of the few departments in the U.S. that brings together a focus on East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea) with a focus on South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- A rich array of courses is regularly taught, covering language, literature, and linguistics in both the undergraduate and graduate programs.
- The number of undergraduate majors is healthy.
- The departmental is collegial and cohesive.
- The department has excellent staff.

Program Challenges & Risks

- The department faces limited resources, inhibiting growth and breadth of coverage.
- The most critical issue facing the department's graduate programs is the amount of funding for graduate students.
- There is a need for thoughtful planning for growth in the faculty to address pressures on the curriculum.
- Additional faculty are needed, with the committee recommending hires in specific areas.
- There is a need to more clearly communicate graduate program expectations and progress reports to graduate students.
- The Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) report indicates that faculty may need to give additional attention to attracting a diverse student body.
- The undergraduate curriculum requires review and revision to address specific issues.
- The department needs more adequate space for faculty and graduate teaching assistants.

Areas of Concurrence and/or Disagreement

The department concurred broadly with the review committee's recommendations and responded to each recommendation in its response to the review committee report. Specific responses include the following.

- The department agrees with the need for faculty hiring and longer-term funding packages for graduate students, noting that these two issues are to a great deal contingent on support from Arts & Sciences.
- The department has begun work on better progress reports for graduate students and has initiated work on the issues in need of attention in the undergraduate program.
- The department agrees that current space is physically inadequate and addressing space issues would improve departmental functions.

Graduate School Council Recommendations

The Graduate School Council commends the Department of Asian Languages and Literature on the strength of its programs. It recommends continuing status for all degree programs, with next review in ten years (2024-2025).

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

cc: Gerald Baldasty, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
Patricia Moy, Associate Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs
Judith Howard, Divisional Dean for Social Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences
Michael Shapiro, Divisional Dean for Humanities, College of Arts & Sciences
William Boltz, Chair, Department of Asian Languages and Literature
UW Members of the academic program review committee
Members of the Graduate School Council
David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School
Alice Popejoy, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate