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To: Phyllis Wise, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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 French and Italian Studies

At its meeting of October 5, 2006, the Graduate School Council met with members of the team that reviewed the Division of French and Italian Studies (Sabine Wilke, Professor, Germanics, Committee Chair; Catherine M. Connors, Associate Professor, Classics; Richard A. Wright, Associate Professor, Linguistics), Ellen M. Kaisse (Divisional Dean for Arts & Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences), Janice M. DeCosmo (Assistant Dean, Office of Undergraduate Education), John T.S. Keeler (Chair, Division of French and Italian Studies and Professor of Political Science), and Louisa Mackenzie (Assistant Professor of French). The Division offers a Ph.D. in French Studies, Master of Arts (M.A.) degrees in French Studies and Italian Studies, a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree with options that include a Major and Minor in French and a Major and Minor in Italian.

The last review of this unit was conducted in 1993-1994 before French and Italian Studies and Spanish and Portuguese Studies were designated as separate divisions. Graduate admissions to these programs were suspended in 1999. The Division of French and Italian Studies proposed new graduate degree programs in June of 1999. After review by the Graduate School, the Provost granted the Division of French and Italian Studies the authority to offer the M.A. and Ph.D. in French Studies and the M.A. in Italian Studies, effective September, 2000. The review committee, including one of its external members (Barbara Spackman, Professor and Chair, Department of Italian Studies, UC-Berkeley), held its formal on-site review on February 22-23, 2006. The second external reviewer (Tom Conley, Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University) was unable to attend the site visit, but held follow-up phone interviews with faculty after participating in the charge meeting by phone and reviewing the self-study. Professor Conley submitted a separate letter to accompany the review committee report.

The Review Committee Chair and the Division Chair focused their presentations at the Council meeting on one overriding issue: that the Division does not have sufficient faculty to function as a graduate program. Specifically, the only full professor in the Division recently left the UW and that position has not been replaced. The Division Chair presented several performance measures indicating the program's success, including: 1) graduating more doctoral students 2003-05 than any other language and literature program except Germanics; 2) their study abroad programs and collaborations with foreign institutions; 3) reduced time to degree for the Ph.D. program by 2 years; and 4) substantially increased development resources. In addition, he noted that the UW Division of French and Italian Studies has fewer faculty than peer institutions. The Council concurred that additional faculty are needed to keep the Division's graduate programs viable. It is unclear, however, how and when the College will be able to respond to this need.

The Council discussion addressed several other issues, including the recommendations from the review committee report. First, the Division should engage in a vigorous strategic planning process. It needs to review several issues related to its undergraduate program. For example, the Division needs to consider how a research option could be made available to undergraduates, to have a discussion about coordinating different levels of the language program, and whether tenure-line faculty could teach in this program. Further, could the faculty positions be rearranged in some way to address the extensive teaching load? The Division needs to establish formal relationship with GO-MAP and to write a diversity plan. It needs to step up graduate student recruitment in general, and explore outside funding for graduate fellowships and study abroad. The review committee also recommended that the Division consider partnering with other departments in offering workshops on career-related topics. Finally, the faculty's scholarly output appears to be low, possibly due to both the teaching load and the demands for informal teaching and student mentoring in the Division.

The Council agreed with the review committee recommendation to grant continuing 10-year status for all of the degree programs in the Division, with the next review to occur during the 2015-2016 academic year. However, the Council also requested that the Division submit a 5-year interim report to the Graduate School during the 2010-2011 academic year. This report should include the following topics: 1) development and implementation of a faculty mentoring plan; 2) development and implementation of a student mentoring plan; 3) development and implementation of a diversity plan; 4) progress in further reducing time to degree; 5) increasing productivity of professorial faculty; and 6) progress in securing a chair that can teach in the program, including developing a strategy to cultivate leadership within the Division. The Graduate School concurs with all of these recommendations.

- c: Ron Irving, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- Ellen M. Kaisse, Divisional Dean for Arts and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences
- Janice M. DeCosmo, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
- John T.S. Keeler, Professor and Chair, Division of French and Italian Studies
- French and Italian Studies Review Committee
- Graduate School Council
- Kimberly Friese, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School