

Response to the Review Committee Report for the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Submitted to the Graduate School of the University of Washington on May 31, 2018

To:

Rebecca Arnaud, Interim Dean, Graduate School
Kima Cargill, Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Planning,
Graduate School

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the review committee: Professor James Claus (chair), Professor Carolyn Allen, and our external members Professor Yana Hashamova (Ohio State) and Professor Justin McCabe Weir (Harvard) for their very considerate and thoughtful report. We really appreciate all of the work that went into reading the self-study, conducting interviews and writing the report.

We agree with their suggestion to create more general education classes, and are at work doing so. We would also love to develop a program focusing on Russian-Jewish literature and culture.

There is no doubt that our undergraduate curriculum needs revision and that will be our focus next year. We will certainly take into the consideration the idea of including area-studies courses as a way of attracting Jackson School students. As to the suggestion that we revise our major language requirement we are in a something of a bind at the moment. If the planned direct admission to division takes place, the humanities division is planning on proposing a number of division-wide majors. Some of these are designed to be “language-heavy”, in which case we do not want to eliminate 4th year Russian classes. We will certainly keep discussing this issue, and are thankful to the committee for pointing out this option.

We very strongly support the idea of reintroducing a language requirement (perhaps as a divisional requirement) and introducing a citation in foreign language proficiency. The chair will follow up on this with other humanities chairs.

Study abroad is a bit of a chicken-and-egg problem. We used to have departmental study abroad programs to Prague, Sochi and Georgia and are still co-sponsoring CHID’s Black Sea study

abroad program, but with fewer students it is difficult to maintain such projects. We will reach out to IPE and try to get a better sense of the options available on the UW level.

As to the suggestion regarding the linguistics focus of our graduate students, they are well aware that academic positions in Slavic Linguistics are not plentiful. Our current students take a lot of classes in the Department of Linguistics and are mostly focused on careers outside academia.

We also appreciate the suggestion regarding the use of Polish funds for graduate fellowships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat Dziwirek". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Katarzyna Dziwirek
Professor and Chair
Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of Washington