College of Arts and Sciences
Dean's Response to Self Study Report
Modern and Classical Languages Department
January 11, 2010

The Modern and Classical Languages Department's Self Study report provides an excellent beginning for the review of the department's achievements and goals. We thank Dr. Fernando Reati, Dr. Carmen Schlig, and the remaining departmental faculty for the time and energy that this endeavor required.

We are pleased with the progress that the Modern and Classical Languages Department has made since its last self-study. We particularly applaud the strong hires that Department has made, its reduction in the use of part-time faculty, its focus on improving the scheduling of its classes, and its reduction in class size for lower division classes. We appreciate the progress the department has made on increasing the admission test scores of its graduate classes in Spanish and French, on increasing the faculty's research productivity and external funding, and on its collaborative approach for fulfilling the international mission of Georgia State University.

The upcoming visit by the external review team provides the department and the Dean's office with an excellent opportunity to review the progress of the Department and to sharpen our vision for its future. To this end, we will focus here on the key aspects of the program and leave decisions about specific new resources until the action plan is formulated during the later steps in the program review progress. We look forward to the input of the external review team to help us clarify the future directions for strengthening the department. Specifically, our focus below is on areas that further information and analysis would be useful as we plan for the department's future.

First, what steps should the department take to effectively strengthen and streamline its academic programs? Currently, the department offers three B.A. degrees, three joint B.A. programs (with two more forthcoming), three B.S. programs, four teacher certification programs, two joint graduate degrees, three MA degrees, and four graduate certification programs. Several additions are recommended in the self-study, including the B.A. degree in Italian and another in European and Modern Languages. Are all of these programs viable? Is further consolidation possible and educationally appropriate? Given market demand for graduates, should all the programs be sustained or expanded?

Second, how would you evaluate the department's recommendations regarding course redesign? Are the budgetary implications outlined in the self-study reasonable assumptions? We would appreciate any guidance you can provide on how technology could enhance course availability for students while preserving and enhancing the educational experience of the students.

Third, what steps should the department take to strengthen recruitment into its graduate programs? We would appreciate the external team's comments on the most
appropriate route for strengthening the graduate programs and their assessment of the resources that would be needed to accomplish those plans. What remedies would the external team suggest for countering the readily available, less rigorous degree programs that are increasingly become available on-line? Given the recent reductions in available students for the M.A. program in Spanish, does the external team believe the Ph.D. program should still be pursued? What is the team’s view of the proposed 5 year B.A./M.A. in Spanish?

Finally, we would like the external team to reflect on how to strengthen the Modern and Classical Languages Department in the current times of growing economic challenges. We would like to be made aware of any avenues that might be available in the field of Modern and Classical Languages for securing external support or for more efficiently and productively streamlining our current practices. We would appreciate any input the team has on the proposed hiring plan included in the self-study.

The Dean’s office again congratulates the Modern and Classical Languages Department on its impressive strides since the last self-study, and we thank the faculty for their report. The Dean’s office looks forward to the external reviewers’ visit and to working with the Department on an action plan that will make their goals achievable in the next cycle.

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Dr. Lauren B. Adamson, Dean

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Dr. Carol Winkler, Associate Dean