

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO REMOVE SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS IN THE MASTER OF ARTS
PROGRAM IN GERMAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to remove the suspension of admissions in the Master of Arts Program in German in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Executive Summary: The request to remove the suspension of admissions in the Master of Arts Program in German is based on the completion of the reorganization of the German Department and other language departments into the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (Agenda Item 4g, September 2010). This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority of “educational excellence and impact.”

Background:

◇ **Description of program.** The Master of Arts Program in German offers students two areas of concentration – literature and linguistics. A minimum of 33 semester hours of graduate credit are required. Advanced undergraduates also have an opportunity to undertake a combined Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts Program in German.

◇ **Reason for proposed removal of suspension.** In September 2009, the Board of Regents approved the suspension of admissions to both the Master of Arts and Ph.D. Programs in German due to low enrollments and loss of faculty. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requested that the department focus on curricular restructuring to allow the teaching and mentoring needs to be met with the current faculty. In February 2010, the Task Force on Graduate Education identified the graduate programs in German as requiring additional evaluation due to their limited enrollment and the fact that no doctoral students had graduated from the program in more than five years.

The Task Force determined that German students at the master’s level could interact with the other MAT/language programs and the Second Language Acquisition program within a possible division of languages. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences worked with the German Department and other language departments toward their reorganization into the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. This reorganization will be advantageous to the German programs at the undergraduate and master’s levels.

◇ **Effect of removal of suspension.** Upon approval of the suspension removal, new students will be able to apply for admission to the Master of Arts Program in German. It will also allow advanced undergraduate students to enroll in the five-year Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts Program option in German.

◇ **Impact on instructional staff.** With the merger of the German Department into the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, the current faculty will more easily be able to collaborate with other language and cultural studies faculty and foster more interdisciplinary interactions that will be attractive to undergraduate and master’s students.

◇ **Date of removal of suspension.** Removal of the suspension of admissions will allow the department to begin accepting applications in Spring 2011 for enrollment in Fall 2011.