

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO SUSPEND ADMISSIONS IN THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN GERMAN
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to suspend admissions in the Master of Arts and Ph.D. Programs in German for a 24-month period (2009-2011).

Executive Summary: The request to suspend admissions to the graduate programs in German is based on limited enrollment in the programs during the past five years and a request from the College for the department to undertake a curricular restructuring. Current students will not be affected by the proposed suspension of admissions. 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 strategy (4.1.1) to "pursue opportunities to realize greater efficiency in operations, consistent with best practices in the delivery of education and other services."

Background:

- ◇ Description of programs. The department offers a Master of Arts in German with a literature or linguistics concentration and a Ph.D. in German with a literature, linguistics, or combined literature and linguistics concentration. Advanced undergraduates also have an opportunity to undertake a combined Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts program.
- ◇ Reason for proposed suspension. The department currently has five faculty members which is a decrease of three faculty members during the past 10 years as a result of death and retirements. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has not refilled these positions because there are comparatively few undergraduate and graduate majors¹ and because the College has had more urgent needs. The College has asked the department to focus on curricular restructuring during the next two years to allow teaching needs to be met at the current faculty size and to mentor currently enrolled graduate students to the completion of their degrees.
- ◇ Impact on instructional staff. The department will reorganize its curriculum to eliminate 1.04 HTE teaching assistant positions while offering the same number of course enrollments in 2009-10 as in the current year.
- ◇ Impact of proposed suspension. Suspension of the graduate programs may affect the exchange with Germany's University of Dortmund, which brings an MA student to SUI's Department of American Studies every two years. In exchange, the University of Iowa sends a graduate student to the University of Dortmund annually. The proposed suspension will also result in the suspension of the combined BA/MA program. Currently, there are no students enrolled in the combined program.
- ◇ Availability of graduate programs elsewhere. The University of Northern Iowa offers a Master of Arts Program in German. There are no other colleges or universities in the state that offer a graduate program in German.

¹ In Fall 2008, there were 17 undergraduate majors and 10 graduate majors.

- ◇ Alternate opportunities available to students. Students interested in German language acquisition and German language pedagogy may be drawn to the Ph.D. Program in Second Language Acquisition (SLA), a multidisciplinary field whose goal is to understand the processes that underlie learning a non-native language. SLA draws from a variety of academic disciplines, including linguistics, psychology, psycholinguistics, sociology, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, and education.

- ◇ Date of suspension. If the proposed suspension is approved by the Board, it will become effective immediately.