

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM IN RUSSIAN
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Master of Arts Program in Russian.

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the program follows the suspension of admissions to the program in Fall 2001 (Agenda Item SUI A-4, November 2001). Interest in the program has waned over time and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has determined that no infrastructural resources, particularly faculty positions, will be dedicated to this program. Currently, there are no students in the program. 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 to pursue "educational excellence and impact."

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** The study of Russian literature and linguistics was the main focus of the Master of Arts Program in Russian which could be earned with or without a thesis. The literature track emphasized the historical development of Russian literature in the 19th and 20th centuries. The linguistics track emphasized Modern Standard Russian with secondary emphasis on the history of the language. Further development of the students' command of Russian was emphasized in coursework and periodic oral and written exams. Candidates for the Master of Arts were required to complete 30 hours of graduate work beyond the equivalent of the undergraduate major. Students were expected to take courses and comprehensive exams in both literature and linguistics, but the selection of either the literature or linguistics track determined the student's primary emphasis in coursework, exams, and thesis.
- ◇ **Suspension of admissions.** When the University requested suspension of admissions in November 2001, it indicated that it intended to review the suspension in 18-24 months after the program was reassessed and its impact on potential Master of Arts students of Russian was evaluated. No students have been enrolled since Fall 2001 and information about the program is not available in the University's General Catalog.
- ◇ **Impact on instructional staff.** Only two tenure-track faculty members (1 FTE) remain whose teaching-scholarly expertise is in Russian language and culture. In 2004, the Russian faculty, students, and curriculum were incorporated into the Department of Asian Languages and Literature. In 2007, the name of the department was changed to the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages (Agenda Item 10m, June 2007). The Bachelor of Arts Program in Russian will continue to be offered through the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages.
- ◇ **Impact on students.** Currently, there are no students enrolled in the Master of Arts program. The last graduate completed the degree in December 2001. Therefore, there will be no negative impact on students.

- ◇ Availability of graduate programs elsewhere. There are no other graduate programs in Russian available in Iowa. Five institutions in the CIC¹ offer graduate study in Russian – University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign which had 13 students enrolled in Fall 2009; University of Illinois-Chicago where admission is currently suspended to the M.A. and Ph.D. programs; University of Michigan (enrollment data not available); Indiana University (enrollment data not available); and Northwestern University which has had an average of two Ph.D. students each year during the past five years.
- ◇ Impact on resources. There will be no effective savings by terminating the program because all program resources were re-allocated at the time of the program suspension in 2001.
- ◇ Date of termination. If the proposed termination is approved by the Board, it will become effective immediately.

¹ Committee on Institutional Cooperation.