

From: Young, Bailey
Sent: November 13, 2008 1:27
To: Bower, Kathleen
Subject: Foreign Language requirement

November 12, 2008

To: Kathleen Bower, Chair, CAA
From: Bailey K. Young, Professor of History
Re: Foreign Language Requirement

I attended last spring's CAA meeting where the proposal of the Foreign Language Department to increase the foreign language requirement from two to three semester hours was discussed at great length and passed, with strong student support.

I am unable (I am teaching) to attend the forum scheduled from 2-4 PM on Thursday, November 13 to provide feedback to the recommendation of the ad hoc committee that this measure be rescinded. I want to voice my very strong support for the **re-affirmation** of last Spring's decision.

The principle of an enhanced Foreign Language requirement is a good one, in keeping with Eastern's proclaimed policy of becoming a first choice institution. It is also a positive step toward's meeting the goal enshrined in EIU's mission statement, to encourage our students to become responsible global citizens. In the economic sphere as well, the international marketplace rewards those with multi-linguistic abilities, and penalizes those whose culture is limited by ignorance of cultural traditions expressed in other languages. A two-semester requirement is too weak, and incompatible with EIU's professed goals, and with current globalising trends. I understand that there are realistic considerations regarding how the requirement should be implemented in the upcoming years, which could properly be the object of discussion, perhaps in the form of an amendment to the proposal originally passed. But please do not throw the baby out with the bathwater!