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Sent: November 17, 2008 3:54

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Subject: Foreign Language Ad Hoc resolution

Dear CAA member,

Please find attached a position statement from the
Department of Health Studies.

Rob Bates, Chair

Members of CAA:

The Department of Health Studies would like to express its support for the recommendations formulated by the CAA Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on the Foreign Language Requirement. In particular, we agree with the Sub-Committee's recommendation to rescind approval of the changes in the foreign language graduation requirement that were passed Spring 2008.

As faculty, we were encouraged by the objective manner in which the Sub-Committee conducted its fact-finding mission. We feel the Sub-Committee made every possible attempt to solicit pertinent data from across the University constituencies.

While we generally support any effort which will increase our students' exposure to cultural diversity, we had grave concerns about assuming that a third course in foreign language would accomplish this goal. Additionally, we felt the proposal did not adequately address the very different needs of the various academic programs across campus. Specifically, the following were of great concern to the Department:

- The impact on transfer students was unknown.
- The impact on non-traditional students was unknown.
- The additional graduation requirements were a burden in our programs which have little room to spare because of accreditation requirements.
- The additional requirement is more appropriately examined at the programmatic level.

We particularly support the recommendation that individual programs be encouraged to examine their own diversity and language needs. Our discipline standards require cultural diversity to be incorporated into our curriculum; therefore our curriculum is already addressing this issue in a manner we deem appropriate to our discipline. We will welcome the opportunity to further review those requirements in the interest of improving our curriculum and better preparing our students for their chosen professions, especially as we will be able to focus our discussions at a programmatic level.