



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
GREEN BAY

Date: April 5, 2017

To: Cristina Ortiz, Chair Modern Languages

From: Scott Furlong, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Re: Report on the Modern Languages Program Review

The Modern Language program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay consists of three disciplinary language programs with majors and minors in Spanish and German and a minor in French. It also includes the teaching of courses in Hmong (occasionally), Japanese (through St. Norbert College) and Arabic and Chinese through the UW-System Collaborative Language Program. The two major programs and minor share many common academic goals, which are aligned with the American Council for Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL). The French program is currently operating with only ad hoc instructors along with support from the other Modern Language faculty. German has two full time faculty. Spanish has four full time positions (currently two faculty, and two lecturers). All of the programs are very committed to a high level of instruction for their students. In addition, they are very involved in meeting the needs of NW Wisconsin through a variety of community activities. They are actively involved with the Education program for those students planning to teach foreign language, and have recently worked with NAS in the development of a new International Environmental Sciences minor. They are also very involved in international activities through travel courses, student exchanges, and other activities. All of the faculty reside within Humanistic Studies.

Enrollment Trends/Resource Issues:

Student enrollments in the Spanish and German majors somewhat steady since the last review, with some small decreases likely due to the overall university-wide enrollment declines. German has had around 16 majors (and minors), but some more recent drops. Spanish has between 60-75 majors (their minors have fluctuated more with numbers as low as 67 and as high as 106). The French minor, not surprisingly has suffered with no permanent faculty (number of minors have been less than 10). There are currently two German professors, two professors and two lecturers within the Spanish program. The Spanish programs, particularly, has had issues retaining faculty due to offers from other institutions.

Assessment:

As noted, the programs all follow learning outcomes established by the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Assessment occurs through a combination of course exams and on-going assessment through classroom instruction through embedded assessment. Students also must go through oral exams with the faculty. As part of the university assessment program, the program has specifically assessed different outcomes from the ACTFL list. Spanish

specifically has made curricular adjustments based on their assessment. The assessment program appears to be effective for these programs, and takes advantage of the strong faculty-student interaction in incorporating assessment methods. Senior survey and alumni survey results have relatively small number of people responding, but appear to generally support the program.

Curriculum:

There have been significant adjustments to the French curriculum due to the loss of the faculty member, and a move to only offer the minor. German has also made some adjustments to streamline their curriculum. The program has been working with the Environmental Science program to develop an International Environmental Science minor. There is an interest within the Spanish program to develop a master's program, likely in Translation Studies. The programs continue to be strong promoters of study abroad and student travel courses. A decision was made to stop offering the Spanish in the Profession (SIP) program during this time period due to a reduction in enrollments and less interest in the community.

Concluding Comments:

I agree with the AAC that the faculty within the Modern Languages program has done a very good job maintaining their programs to the best of their ability, being at the forefront on issues of cultural awareness, and working with other programs from across the university. Changes in faculty personnel and resource constraints have not allowed for the same level of support for Modern Languages as in the past. This is something that we are seeing throughout the UW System, particularly for the French and German programs. I have been involved in discussions with other UW deans regarding how we may use the Collaborative Language Program or other campus partnerships to maintain these programs. Professor Coury (German/HUS) has also been involved in such discussions.

We continue to have strong faculty and quality programs within our German and Spanish programs.

In the short term, it appears unlikely that we will be able to hire a tenure-track (or full time lecturer) for our French program. We are also facing decreasing ad hoc funds. We need to ask the question of whether we can continue to provide our students with a quality French minor given our limited resources. The Modern Language faculty are doing all they can to support this minor, but they have other needs to address as well. If we are able to share instructional resources with other campuses, as noted above, there may be a short-term path forward for French, but is it sustainable? I suggest that Modern Languages along with HUS and myself engage in this discussion.

On a different note, the faculty within Modern Faculty are strong teacher-scholars that engage with the local community and are tremendous assets to UW-Green Bay. I continue to commend their willingness to seek out collaborations and champion the importance of languages to the liberal arts and the success of our students.

Cc: Mimi Kubsch, Academic Affairs Council
Clif Ganyard, Associate Provost