

## **Program Suspension Proposal: Bachelor of Arts in German**

The University of Maine undertook a review of its degree programs in the 2009-2010 academic year. President Kennedy charged the Academic Program Prioritization Working Group (APPWG) with evaluating and prioritizing all UMaine academic programs, stating that “the goal of this process will be strong support of our highest priority degree programs funded by a reduction in those ranked as our lowest priorities” (President’s Charge to APPWG). In its final report, APPWG recommended suspension of the German major and exploration of alternative models of focused instruction in this area. President Kennedy accepted this recommendation.

### Five-Year Summary of Program Enrollments

The BA program in German is housed in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. There are two full-time regular faculty members who teach most of the courses that make up the German major. Adjunct faculty members teach some courses in the curriculum.

A summary of the German majors and degrees conferred over the past five years is included in the following table. Number of majors is based upon fall head counts.

Academic Year	Majors	Degrees
2005-2006	19	9
2006-2007	19	7
2007-2008	22	4
2008-2009	12	10
2009-2010	11	4

### Rationale

The number of faculty members in German will decrease from two to one in academic year 2012-2013. It does not appear that the curriculum for the German major can be offered with one faculty member.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences determined that a decrease of 25 FTE faculty lines by the end of FY 2014 will be necessary to meet budget reduction targets. One of the faculty lines identified for elimination is currently occupied by a faculty member in German whose appointment will end August 31, 2012. To maintain the degree program in German, a replacement faculty member would need to be hired. A faculty hire in German would come at the cost of a much-needed faculty hire in another program. The goal of the APPWG review was to prioritize academic programs and the reality is there are degree programs in CLAS that are higher priority and have significant needs for faculty.

The Department of Modern Languages and Classics will undergo a program review in the 2010-2011 academic year following University of Maine System policy and procedures. A site visit will be conducted as part of the program review and, in

addition to evaluating the language programs at UMaine, the site visitors will be asked to provide advice as to how language instruction might be modified to better utilize technology and innovative pedagogies. Example questions to be addressed through the program review process include, "Can the University of Maine continue to offer a quality BA program in German with one full-time faculty member and no new resources?" and "What is the best use of the available faculty resources in German to educate UMaine students in German language and culture?"

#### Faculty Assignment During Suspension Period

There will be no change in the assignment of faculty in German during the suspension period.

#### Impact of Program Suspension on Current Students

Current students will not be impacted during the program suspension period.

#### Timetable

Suspension of the German BA program will commence in January, 2011. No new students will be admitted to the program while it is under suspension. The program will be considered for reinstatement or elimination by December 31, 2012. During the suspension period, the program will have the opportunity to use the results of the program review, including the site visitor's report, to develop a plan for reinstatement or elimination of the German major or development of other forms of program of study in German.

#### Meetings/Discussions Regarding Proposed Suspension

The Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Chair of the Modern Languages and Classics Department have met several times to discuss the proposed suspension of the German major. During those conversations, it was unclear how many faculty members in German would be continuing and for what length of time. The Dean expressed concern about continuation of the German program in the face of uncertain faculty size.

The first draft of this program suspension proposal was shared with the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, an AFUM representative and the chair of the Faculty Senate's Program Creation, Review, and Reorganization Committee on September 1, 2010.

- September 13, 2010, the Dean received a memo from Jane Smith, Chair of Modern Languages and Classics, requesting an extension of the final review date to December, 2012 (see attached).
- October 29, 2010, the Dean met with James McClymer, AFUM Representative. McClymer raised questions about the timeline and suggested that it be extended beyond the originally proposed December 31, 2010.

As a result, the date at which the program will be considered for reinstatement or elimination was changed from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2012.