

## MEMO

TO: Jeff Hecker  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

FROM: Jane Smith, Chair

SUBJECT: Latin and German Program Suspensions

DATE: September 13, 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the memos regarding the proposed program suspensions. Because we were unable to respond as a whole to the initial proposal of suspension last spring, on behalf of the Department, I would like to go on record to state that the flagship public institution of higher education in the State of Maine should offer students the opportunity of majoring in Latin and German. Access to knowledge should not be driven by numbers and the fad of student interest. The Department of Modern Languages and Classics feels all of our major languages should remain major programs. At the same time, we recognize that there are fiscal considerations driving program prioritization, and not necessarily educational ideals.

In response to your memo, I understand that should the suspensions be approved by the Board of Trustees at the January 2011 meeting, admissions to the Latin and German majors will be suspended beginning spring semester 2011. Further, I understand that review of the programs in question will be informed by the recommendations of the external site reviewers with an eye toward the future viability of the majors.

I am requesting an extension of the final review from December 2011 to December 2012. There are several reasons for my request. First, one faculty member in each of these programs is currently on leave. Second, the report from the external reviewers is unlikely to arrive before mid semester Spring 2011. The faculty will have to consider the best implementation strategy for suggestions arising from our self-study and the recommendations of the external review. The resulting innovative curricular changes must go through the usual curriculum review process, including the UPCC, meaning that any new and innovative pedagogies and courses cannot be offered until AY 2011-12. The December 2011 deadline would not give my office an opportunity to review the success or failure of our efforts.