



UNC CHARLOTTE

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
9201 University City Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

August 5, 2009

Office of Academic Affairs
704/687-2224

Dr. Alan Freitag
President of the Faculty

Dear Alan,

The purpose of this letter is to request the consultation of the faculty on the establishment of the Department of Global, International, and Area Studies within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Attached is the memorandum from Dean Nancy Gutierrez supporting the establishment of the department.

I look forward to discussing this with the faculty.

Sincerely,

Joan F. Lorden
Provost

Attachment

cc: Nancy Gutierrez

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joan F. Lorden
Vice Chancellor and Provost

FROM: Nancy A. Gutierrez
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

DATE: April 15, 2009

SUBJECT: Creation of New Department

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requests permission to create a new Department of Global, International, and Area Studies. This new unit will include the following degrees:

- International Studies Minor and Major
- Latin American Studies Minor, Major and Master of Arts degree
- Islamic Studies Minor
- Judaic Studies Minor
- Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights minor

In addition, the Department can nurture the developing Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies as well as administer the Global Studies Ph.D. Program, currently under review at General Administration.

As you can see from the attached spreadsheet, the International Studies major is quite large, while the other programs are much smaller. By combining all these programs within a single unit, the College is able to better support all these programs, as well as nurture the smaller programs.

This new unit will create an identity for students and faculty engaged in international and area studies, thus furthering one of the recommendations of the UNC Tomorrow initiative. Specifically, it will provide a cohesive organizational structure for these programs and allow for more effective resource allocation and staffing of courses; it will be a forum for faculty to critique curriculum in these knowledge areas and implement changes to enhance both the efficiency and quality of related curricular offerings; and finally, it will be an intellectual center that can foster scholarship and community engagement.

The following faculty members will be the founding faculty of this new department:

- A chair, who will be appointed through an internal search;
- Current lecturers teaching in the International Studies program (1.5 FTE);
- Three faculty to be hired on three currently frozen positions (one lecturer, the Swift Distinguished Professor of Judaic Studies, and the Director of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies);
- Current faculty who can be “loaned” to the new department on a short-term basis.

The creation of this department will not require any new resources for space or staffing. At least initially, the department can operate in the space currently assigned to the interdisciplinary programs. Monies now allocated to the administration and operation of the individual programs can be combined to provide departmental operating funds. An administrative staff person is already assigned to these programs and can continue in this role.

We have organized a working group of key stakeholders to plan for an orderly implementation and to begin work on the required departmental governance documents. I have scheduled discussions on this topic with the Faculty Council and with the Administrative Council of College chairs and directors. I also am scheduling an open meeting with the college faculty to discuss this proposal.

Overall, I believe that effecting this organizational change is a necessary next step in supporting existing programming and in enhancing the long-term viability of these related programs. If approved, the new department can be implemented on July 1, 2009.

Please let me know if you require further information. Thank you.