

ANNUAL REPORT
Dept. of Modern & Classical Languages
2004-05

I. General Report

A. Programs and accreditation

1. Major programmatic changes

- Continued discussion and committee work of joint French/Spanish PhD.

2. Status of accreditation activities

- A culture of assessment has been established for MCL's contribution to the Core. The Department will proceed with assessing the majors more completely during the coming academic year.

B. Noteworthy awards, honors, and accomplishments

1. Unit

2. Faculty

- Research productivity:

- 1 book
- 1 workbook
- 22 articles in refereed journals
- 1 book chapter
- 5 translations
- 5 creative works
- 25 newspaper articles
- 3 encyclopedic entries
- 14 book reviews
- 34 papers in professional settings
- In addition, members of our faculty are on editorial boards of journals.

3. Student

- Our undergraduates are routinely accepted into graduate and professional schools with awards of scholarships and assistantships. Our MA graduate students are regularly accepted into PhD programs.

- Several of the Department's undergraduate students in French and Spanish participated in the Department's own Annual Undergraduate Student Symposium.

- The graduates students were actively involved in organizing and presenting at the Department's own Annual Graduate Student Symposium. Three of our graduate students presented scholarly papers at the Graduate Research Symposium, two at a national conference in Cincinnati.

4. Alumni

5. Other teaching and learning innovations

- The Department continues to be actively involved in offering SLU2000 courses in French, German and Spanish

- WebCT is an integral part of a significant number of courses.

- The Laclede Language Houses continue to provide a space where frequent and more familiar contacts between our faculty and our students and thus where informal learning take place.

- As a result of an ESL proposal, the Academic Affairs Committee approved a change in the TOEFL score for part-time ESL/academic students from 500 to 510. The ESL faculty is developing curriculum designed to serve these part-time students. New strategies are also being developed to prepare students for the New Generation TOEFL exam, which will be used for English Proficiency testing, beginning in Fall, 2005.

- ESL is developing a Documentation Workshop to be offered to incoming international graduate students.

- ESL sponsored and supervised an International Studies Intern (Fall 2004 Semester), with whom the program and ESL students worked in a mutually beneficial and positive relationship.

- Looking toward the coming academic year, the digitization of the Language Learning Center will move the Department to find innovative ways of teaching and learning using the new hardware and software.

C. Highlights of community outreach and partnerships

- The Department is involved in the 1818 Program in French, German, Latin, Russian and Spanish.
- Members of our Department conducted three workshops this past year.
- There is regular consulting for foreign language educational testing, for publishers of pedagogical materials, books and computer software.
- French, German, Spanish, Russian and Italian are involved in local professional and cultural groups.

D. Highlights of external funding/research productivity

1. Grants and contracts

- Dr. Simone Bregni once again procured an annual grant of \$2,500 from the Gene Mariani/Italian Club of St. Louis, aimed at promoting Italian Studies at SLU.
- Dr. Nil Santiáñez received a research grant (\$2,500) from the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Education and US Universities.

2. Major entrepreneurial activity

E. Other key media worthy events not listed above (e.g. major unit events)

- In terms of cultural background, the Department probably enjoys the richest level of diversity on campus. Native speakers teach many of the modern languages, literatures and cultures offered. The following countries are represented: Bolivia, Columbia, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

- Hiring strictly on the basis of merit, our Department also has an outstanding profile regarding affirmative action. Nine percent are Jesuits, 9% are Jewish, 48% are women, 39% are members of minority groups, and 52% are immigrants. Only 13% do not belong to one of these groups.
- The digitalization project of the Language Learning Center will bring the Department up to date in terms of language learning technology.
- Dr. Claude Pavur's website containing pedagogical materials for the teaching of Latin receives about 100 hits per day.

II.Environmental Scan and Space Planning

A. Environmental scan

1. Summary of regional and/or national trends in profession

- Spanish enrollments continue to grow (at SLU as well). Latin is growing (the same for SLU), Italian as well (very significantly at SLU). German, French and Russian are slightly down (holding steady at SLU, slightly up in Russian).
- U.S. universities seek to attract international students, whose numbers have decreased significantly due to U.S. and global political and economic situations. Research demonstrates that strong international universities have comprehensive language support programs, and that ESL Programs are of great importance to the recruitment and retention of international students.

2. Discussion of SLU's status regarding issues and challenges (including enrollment management matters)

- There is only one fulltime faculty member in Italian (Dr. Simone Bregni) who alone cannot cover the array of courses needed to develop the Italian program, especially in light of the significant increase in enrollment. At the same time, it is difficult to find well-qualified adjunct faculty willing to teach on the basis of part-time pay. A competitively paid instructorship is highly desirable and a necessity if the program is to continue to grow.
- Dr. Gregory Wolf resigned his position in German at the end of the spring semester and will be replaced by Dr. Gregory Divers for the coming academic year. The Chair of the Department (Dr. Reinhard Andress) will only be

teaching one course in German each semester. This means that only seven of the 16 courses offered next academic year will be taught by full-time faculty. Aside from replacing Dr. Wolf with a tenure-track position, a competitively paid instructorship in German (at least for the time of the present Chair's service in that position) is highly desirable.

- Roughly 40% of the courses in the Spanish Division are taught by adjunct faculty. Several instructorships in Spanish would add stability to the Spanish program and relieve the full-time faculty of stress.
- More attractive financial packages for the graduate programs in French and Spanish (including health insurance and study abroad on the Madrid Campus in the case of Spanish) would make these programs more competitive and bring in more and, to some extent, better graduate students. This is also a key issue in the interdivisional and interdisciplinary PhD program the Department is discussing.
- The current ESL faculty consists of one full-time, non-tenure-track and four adjunct faculty (two of whom teach 15 hours each). As a result, 90% of ESL instructional hours are taught by adjuncts, limiting guaranteed continuity of faculty and potential program development. There is also no recruitment done specifically to attract students to the ESL Program.
- A major part of the Language Learning Center will be digitized this summer. Learning how to use the new hardware and software represents a challenge to everyone in the Department.
- Cuts in travel money have impacted the number of papers given at conferences (48 last year, 34 this year).
- Attempts to get Portuguese offerings going on a regular basis have met with moderate success. PG A-110 was taught in the spring with eight students. Only one is signed up for the continuation course (PG A-115) in the fall. There is no enrollment yet in the fall for PG A-110.
- The transfer to Banner has not gone smoothly, especially with regard to the course schedule for 05/06. Although the Department submitted it correctly, the way it appeared in Banner was a total mess. It took hours of time on the part of the Chair and the General Division Coordinators to straighten this all out.

- Trying to get checks cut for adjunct faculty and for reimbursements occasionally took on Kafkaesque characteristics. Although the paperwork was submitted in a timely fashion, several adjuncts were not paid on time which caused them financial hardships. The requests for reimbursement checks on occasion got “lost” or took an inordinate amount of time to be processed. It proved nearly impossible to find out where the responsibility for this rested. No apologies were ever forthcoming.

- As important as retention may be, efforts in this regard are devolving more service-kind of duties upon the faculty without the provision of additional resources. This increases the level of stress among full-time faculty members.

- As important as assessment may be for accreditation, it is also an additional duty that faculty members have had to assume without any additional resources.

- Although the space reasons are clear for offering a certain percentage of classes outside the 10 to 2 framework, it is sometimes difficult to get students to enroll in those classes.

B. Anticipated space planning needs

- In connection with the digitalization project of the Language Learning Center, the Department will gain use of RH 302 for additional language lab-related activities.

- There is a shortage of office space for emeritus professors and if additional fulltime faculty is hired. Some of the adjunct and TA offices are crowded.

Prepared by: Dr. Reinhard Andress, Chair