

December 10, 2004

Department of Modern and Classical Languages Goals Statement

In reality, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages consists of several smaller departments or, as we refer to them, divisions: Classics, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. In addition, ESL is a separate program within our Department. With the exception of Russian, one common characteristic is that each division is heavily dependent on adjunct teaching. There is also some intersection between French and Spanish in terms of a possible joint PhD that these two divisions are discussing. As a whole, however, each division functions independently and has its own particular goals and hiring needs. Thus, this Goals Statement will be divided up by language divisions.

Classics Division

Goals: The most immediate goal of the Classics Division is to exist at a level that should be considered bedrock minimal for any unit attempting to provide Majors, Minors, and Certificates in Greek, Latin, and the Classical Humanities. We need to be able to cover the basics (introductory language courses) and have a few good electives (including core courses) for our students every semester. This is quite impossible in the present situation since we have only have two full-timers doing Greek, Latin, and Classical Humanities. As a result, the program loses integrity and functionality. A desire to achieve some focus and to ensure the healthy continuance of the classical languages at SLU has forced us to cut all Classical Humanities courses. In addition, research loses its focus if the same person has to teach courses in both languages and both civilizations. We now cover the introductory language sequence and have a little room for one advanced Latin and one advanced Greek literature course each semester. In fall 04, 27% of the courses were covered by adjuncts.

Hiring Plans: To attain the minimal level and to make some progress toward excellence, we should plan for two hires over the next five years, with the first one focusing on the teaching of classical culture at all levels and developing a classical culture extracurricular group. The other should ideally be an especially strong language teacher with interests in pedagogy, perhaps with post-classical interests to concurrently strengthen the CMRS.

ESL Program

Goals: The general goal of the ESL Program is to continue giving excellent academic and cultural support to incoming international students. This includes increasing and improving communication and articulation with academic units in order to facilitate a smooth transition of international students into their university studies. ESL would also like to be able to offer additional courses and support services to meet students' specialized needs as they integrate into the university.

Hiring Plans: At the present time, the only full-time faculty member is the Director of ESL, who teaches a one-half teaching load, in addition to administrative duties, curriculum planning and advising of students. As a result, 90% of ESL instructional hours are taught by adjuncts. Although the number of international students currently coming to U.S. universities is somewhat low, there is hope that it will stabilize and increase in the future. In order to maintain a stable faculty, develop curriculum and give additional individualized instruction for international students, the program would benefit greatly from having a second ESL-certified, full-time instructor, preferably one of the long-serving adjuncts.

French Division

Goals: Over the next 3–5 years, the French Division will continue its commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education in French. The goal is to create exciting options in French, through new courses and study-abroad options, thus making French a vibrant presence on campus and attracting more students to the French Program. More specifically, the French Division's objectives are:

- to strengthen faculty training in ACTFL proficiency guidelines for assessment purposes;
- to develop curriculum to meet the needs of our students, adding courses in Linguistics, Medieval French, French for Med. Students;
- to increase our study-abroad opportunities, with a view to developing, in partnership with the Facultés Catholiques of Lyon, either a SLU-based summer study program, or a semester-abroad option;
- to propose a PhD in French and Spanish: there is a growing market for dual-language PhD recipients, and SLU would be one of the first to offer such a degree.

In addition, all French Division colleagues are active in their respective fields of research. During the next 3–5 years, all of them hope to publish a manuscript.

Hiring Plans: Publishing, exploring study-abroad opportunities, and creating a new PhD all require a considerable investment of time and energy. While all full-timers in the French Division have demonstrated excellence in both teaching and research, all of them have experienced an increase in administrative duties. Due to upcoming sabbatical leaves, and possibly research leaves, an even higher percentage of the French Division's courses will be taught by part-timers (in fall 04 approx. 24%). To meet our goals, we will need:

- a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (non-tenure track, annual exchange student who increases the visibility of French culture on campus and also teaches one course each semester);
- an Assistant Professor of Medieval or Golden Age (17th-century) French (tenure-track, for program development);
- an Assistant Professor of French/Spanish Linguistics (tenure-track, for program development, especially in light of the combined PhD, cf. Spanish Division below);
- also in light of the possible combined French/Spanish PhD, an Assistant Professor specializing in French/Spanish cross-cultural connections (also cf. Spanish Division below).

German Division

Goals: One of the two full-timers in German, Dr. Reinhard Andress, is now functioning as Chair of the Department with a teaching load reduced to one course each semester. This means that of the approx. 16 courses taught per academic year, only seven are currently being taught by full-timers, the remaining courses by part-timers (approx. 56%). Thus, the short-term goal is to fill the fulltime instructional gap created by this situation for at least the time of Dr. Andress' tenure as Chair. More programmatically, the goal is to continue building the German Studies focus to complement the teaching and research interests of the current faculty in German, especially with regard to the early-modern period. This would enable the German Division to offer an excellent range of German Studies courses covering all ages, periods and movements in German cultural history. Such a hire could also interact with the CMRS and contribute to its distinction. A further goal is to increase the German cultural presence on campus through the German House.

Hiring Plans: The sabbatical leaves of both Drs. Andress and Gregory Wolf in 06/07 will necessitate the hire of at least one full-time instructor for that academic year in order to guarantee the integrity of the program. Ideally, that individual should be retained for the time period of Dr. Andress' tenure as Chair. However, this opportunity could also be taken to fill a tenure-track line in the early-modern period, thus not only closing the gap created by Dr. Andress' appointment as Chair but also building

the program as delineated above. The most ideal way of increasing the German cultural presence on campus would be through a German Foreign Language Teaching Assistant who would reside in the German House, assume the responsibilities for organizing cultural activities there as well as teach one course each semester.

Italian Division

Goals: The Italian program has seen impressive growth since Dr. Simone Bregni joined the faculty in 2000. The lower-division courses are consistently overenrolled, and there is considerable momentum building for a Minor and Major in Italian. To handle the increasing numbers, approx. 60% of the courses are covered by adjuncts. With only one fulltime faculty member in Italian, a Minor and Major are not possible in a way that would achieve the high standards SLU sets. In addition, Dr. Bregni's research interests dovetail with the CMRS. Yet, with his heavy involvement in building and teaching in the Italian program, he has not been able to contribute to the extent he would like to the excellence and distinction of the CMRS.

Hiring Plans: There is an urgent need now for a tenure-track position in Italian (preferably with a specialization in Applied Linguistics and/or Second Language Acquisition) in order to handle the burgeoning numbers in Italian and the further expected increases, and to build the program. Alternatively, however less desirable in terms of increasing the research profile of the Italian Division, the Department and SLU, would be the hire of a full-time instructor. An Italian Foreign Language Teaching Assistant would also be a way of increasing the Italian cultural presence on campus. In addition, this individual could teach one course each semester on a part-time basis.

Russian Division

Goals: The Russian Division proposes to increase enrollment and achieve excellence over the next two academic years through a variety of strategies:

- first, the Division will use the assessment instruments in place to guide it in carrying out prudent revisions, in particular in the lower-division courses;
- second, the Division is close to a decision to offer first-semester Russian during the spring semester, thus beginning a second three-semester sequence of lower-division Russian;
- third, also under consideration is the development of a two-semester sequence of Russian grammar designed to attract

students in the sciences and in Parks College, thus casting a broader net;

- fourth, the Division plans to take advantage of an increase in the number of Russian heritage speakers at Saint Louis University, ensuring that every one of them earns at least a Minor in Russian, if not a double Major;
- fifth, for the first time a Russian course has been cross-listed with the English Department: Russian Literature, XIX Century, a strategy that the Division plans to explore further with English, and also with other language divisions and the Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

Hiring Goals: Dr. David Murphy will return to full-time teaching in the fall 05 after seven years of dividing his attention between the Russian program and the CMRS. Given his thirty years of experience teaching Russian to native speakers of American English and Dr. Yelena Belyaeva-Standen's experience in teaching Russian as a second language, the Russian Division is confident that it can realize the strategies outlined above. In addition to the part-time teaching of Dr. Irina Yulianova, there are two faculty spouses with earned PhD's in Russian: Dr. David Borgmeyer, husband of Dr. Jennifer Popiel in the Department of History, and Dr. Elizabeth Blake, wife of Dr. Ruben Rosario in the Department of Theological Studies. The presence of these scholars will enable the Russian Division to provide qualified parttime teaching and substitute professors within the context of sabbatical leaves of the current faculty. Thus, there are no fulltime hiring plans.

Spanish Division

Goals: Over the next 3–5 years, the Spanish Division's most immediate goals are to attend to the needs of our increasing number of undergraduate students interested in all aspects of Hispanic language, culture, literature and Spanish linguistics, as well as to continue expanding our offerings at the graduate level and increasing the cultural presence of Spanish on campus. To that end, our specific goals for achieving excellence are:

- to decrease the Division's dependence on adjunct instructors (currently at approx. 46%, excluding the 34 lab contact hours) to teach advanced Spanish language level courses: 310, 315, 410, 415, as these courses are part of the Certificate, Minor and Major in Spanish and should to be taught by full-time members of the Division;
- to develop courses in the two areas mostly needed: (a) Latin American Colonial and/or Latino Studies, and (b) Spanish Linguistics (Second language acquisition); both areas of

specialization are growing Spanish fields with great potential to attract students;

- to continue work on a combined French/Spanish PhD;
- to strengthen faculty training in ACTFL proficiency guidelines for assessment purposes.

Hiring Plans: To achieve the goals outlined above, along with attending to the multiple administrative duties associated with them, we will need:

- a minimum of two non-tenure track, full-time Spanish language instructors;
- a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (non-tenure track, annual exchange student who increases the visibility of Spanish culture on campus and also teaches one course each semester);
- a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Colonial Latin American and/or Latino Studies;
- an Assistant Professor of French/Spanish Linguistics (tenure-track, for program development, especially in light of the combined PhD, cf. the French Division above);
- also in light of the possible combined French/Spanish PhD, an Assistant Professor specializing in French/Spanish cross-cultural connections (cf. also the French Division above).