December 12, 2014

TO: Ilene Harris, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy

FROM: Dana Wright, Director of Academic Program Development

I am submitting for the review and action of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy the attached Proposal to Establish a Minor in Linguistics.

The proposal was approved by the Department of Linguistics on July 24, 2014; the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Educational Policy Committee on October 20, 2014; and the College Faculty on November 19, 2014.

ATTACHMENT
Title: Proposal to Establish the Minor in Linguistics

Sponsor: Department of Linguistics
School of Literatures, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Executive Summary: The Department of Linguistics proposes a Minor in Linguistics with a focus on that most human of inventions: language. Linguists seek to identify what you know when you know a language, what you do when you use a language, how you learn this, and how languages change. The Minor in Linguistics will engage students in:

1) Theory and description of the sounds of language, word structures, sentence structures, meaning, and the structures of texts and interaction.
2) Theory and description of how and why languages are learned as first or second languages with implications for improved language teaching.
3) Theory and description of how and why language diversity occurs across social categories of age, ethnicity, gender, class, or region and how and why languages change over time.

To earn the minor, students must complete 18 credit hours – at least 9 of which must be at the 200-level or above. The minor will be comprised of three required courses (9 hours in total), and three additional courses chosen from a list of selectives in Linguistics and other departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Description: The Department of Linguistics proposes a Minor in Linguistics. To earn the minor, students must complete 18 credit hours. The minor will be comprised of three required courses (9 hours in total), and three additional courses chosen from a list of selectives. With the exception of five courses, all courses are available through or crosslisted with the Department of Linguistics. The courses from outside the Department of Linguistics are:

Department of English
ENGL 122, Understanding Rhetoric (3 cr. hrs.)
ENGL 200, Basic English Grammar (3 cr. hrs.)

Department of Philosophy
PHIL 102 Introductory Logic (3 cr. hrs.)
PHIL 206 Introduction to the Philosophy of Language (3 hours)

Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies
SPAN/LALS 427 Studies in Language Policy and Cultural Identity (3 cr. hrs.)

All three departments have approved the request to include their courses in the minor (see end of document).
Requirements for the minor are as follows:

**Required Courses—Linguistics Minor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Three additional courses from the list below or as approved by advisor, two of which must be at the 200 level or above

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Total Hours—Linguistics Minor 18

Linguistic minors will engage in analytical reasoning, argumentation, and guided fieldwork in local multilingual communities. They will write descriptions of language and, to some extent, language users, language learners, and their communities. This may be supplemented by published materials, by publically available language samples, or by recordings of human beings as they speak. Informed by scientific method, such writing leads to the critical evaluation of research findings, the drawing of generalizations, hypothesis formulation, and the testing of predictions. Additionally, the Minor in Linguistics will prepare students to confront language myths and prejudices. As such, the minor will position students not only for further study in linguistics but also for many careers in which critical thinking is required. Specifically, the Minor in Linguistics may provide knowledge and skills relevant for work in education, the teaching of English or other languages, the computer industry, translation and interpretation, language documentation, publishing and dictionary work, testing and assessment, government work, such as the foreign service, or consultant work in the fields of acting, advertising, law, or medicine.

**Justification:**

Until 2008, the Minor in Linguistics existed as part of the Linguistics program in the Department of English. In the years leading up to 2008, numerous faculty members retired, died, or became involved in university administration. At that time, the minor was organized around two areas of linguistics: phonology and syntax. However, given the loss of faculty who taught these courses, the minor became unsustainable and was eliminated. In the past few years, much has changed: linguistics is now a department and a sufficient number of faculty is in place to maintain the minor. And, in keeping with the current faculty’s strengths in applied linguistics, the department has reconfigured the minor.

In addition to this change in faculty, it is also the case that the department has perceived demand from students for a Minor in Linguistics. Over the past few years, with the regular offering of LING 150, Introduction to the Study of Language; LING 160, Language and Society; and, more recently for the first time, LING 260, Language Acquisition, Language Contact and Bilingualism, the department has received numerous
requests from students to offer a minor, if not a major, in linguistics. Enrollment in these three courses, on average, is either at or near the maximum (24 students). Moreover, the undergraduate academic advisor in the School of Literatures, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics, has repeatedly notified us of students who wish to pursue a minor in Linguistics. Typically, these are students who major in a foreign language or who have taken classes in multiple foreign languages and wish to round out their academic experiences with a minor in linguistics. They are quite disappointed to learn that no minor currently exists. Although the department has not formally surveyed students, we estimate that over the past three years, the department has annually received about 12 requests for a minor.

The Minor in Linguistics directly addresses two of UIC’s five mission statements:

- To address the challenges and opportunities facing not only Chicago but all Great Cities of the 21st century, as expressed by our Great Cities Commitment.

The Great Cities Program is committed to applying research that improves the quality of life in urban settings. The Minor in Linguistics directly addresses this in two crucial ways. The minor will engage students in theory and description of how and why languages are learned as first or second languages, with implications for improved language teaching. By implications for improved language teaching, we mean specifically research that addresses false ideas about the nature of language learning and teaching and that provides alternatives derived from research. In addition, the Minor in Linguistics will raise students’ awareness of harmful language myths and prejudices, which typically serve as proxies for ethnic or racial prejudice. This is accomplished in two basic ways. First, students are asked to debate or discuss hot-button topics like the role of non-standard dialects as a means of instruction or the ideology of English-only. In the process, students inevitably assert ideas that linguists have long contested. These ideas are identified and discussed. Second, students read research in which language myths or prejudices are explicitly discussed and contested. Such work identifies false ideas about language that contribute to discrimination in the larger community.

- To foster scholarship and practices that reflect and respond to the increasing diversity of the U.S. in a rapidly globalizing world.

The increasing diversity of the US, in a rapidly globalizing world, brings with it the challenges of responding to this diversity with a clear-eyed ability to identify real problems, not problems invented by ideology and prejudice. The critical thinking and argumentation so central to linguistic analysis, and the field work experiences associated with the situated study of language, prepare students to ask hard questions in public debates where language is involved. The field of linguistics also addresses crucial issues of successful, and perhaps more importantly, unsuccessful communication in settings of education and assessment, law, and healthcare.

In summary, the Minor in Linguistics will deepen students’ understanding of how language is represented, learned, and used in a diverse and complex society.

The Minor in Linguistics builds around three required courses: Ling 150, 160, and 260. These three classes were chosen as the core for the following reasons. First, Ling 150
introduces students to the central areas of linguistics as a discipline (phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics). These central areas are cognitive in orientation and scope. They provide the necessary foundation for any subsequent learning in linguistics. However, issues of language learning, use, and diversity also emerge. Issues of language use and diversity are taken up as central topics in Ling 160 where the focus is on the disciplines known as sociolinguistics. Within sociolinguistics, a major topic area is bilingualism. This may be addressed from multiple perspectives, including the perspective of language learning. These topics are addressed, yet not explored in great detail in Ling 160. Therefore, Ling 260 provides a context for greater exploration of issues in language learning, bilingualism, and the applications to issues in education. By identifying the applications of linguistics to issues of education, Ling 260 addresses the goal of identifying for students how linguistics may be applied to solving social problems. This is in keeping with the emphasis of applied linguistics in the Department of Linguistics.

In addition, the selective courses provide additional opportunity to explore topics identified in the introductory sequence of Ling 150, 160, and 260. Selective classes were chosen which address topics associated with core areas of linguistics (PHIL 102, 206, ENGL 122, 200), sociolinguistics (LING 406,480, SPAN/LALS 427), and applied linguistics (LING 483,487).
Catalog Statement: No previous catalog statement exists.

New
Department of Linguistics
School of Literatures, Cultural Studies and Linguistics
University of Illinois at Chicago
Office 1722 University Hall (MC 315)
601 South Morgan Street
Chicago, IL 60607-7120
Campus Location: 1729 UH
Program Code:
Telephone: (312) 996-5218
Web Site: http://linguistics.las.uic.edu
Head of the Department: Jessica Williams
Program Director: Richard Cameron
E-mail: rcameron@uic.edu

Minor in Linguistics

The Department of Linguistics offers course work leading to the Minor in Linguistics that will engage students in the description and analysis of language, language use, and language learning. The Minor will position students for further study in linguistics as well as for many careers in which critical thinking is required. Specifically, the Minor provides knowledge and skills relevant for work in education, the teaching of English or other languages, the computer industry, translation and interpretation, language documentation, publishing and dictionary work, testing and assessment, government work, such as the foreign service, or consultant work in the fields of acting, advertising, law, or medicine.

Requirements for the Minor

Students who wish to pursue the Minor in Linguistics must complete 18 semester hours, at least 9 of which must be at the 200-level or above. Courses used to complete the minor should comply with the following requirements:

Required Courses—Minor in Linguistics

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Total Hours—Linguistics Minor

18
Minority Impact Statement: No impact on minority students is anticipated. Given the important role that language plays in the formation of identity, it is our hope that linguistics will be a topic of interest to all students.

Budgetary and Staff Implications: No additional budget will be required to establish and maintain the minor. All courses are already taught at least every other year. None of the courses in the major depends solely on students in the minor for enrollment. The three required courses (LING 150, 160, and 260) have general education designation and a track record of good enrollments. They are generally full by the start of the semester. Of the selectives, three are also popular general education courses with excellent enrollment histories; and three are either required or selective for the MA in Linguistics with a concentration in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and are offered annually or every other year. All have good enrollment history. In short, no additional courses will be needed to support the minor. Consequently, the minor will not result in additional soft money requests to LAS, nor will it add to work for staff in terms of scheduling or other duties related to the offering of classes.

The only additional work will be the advising and tracking of students within the minor. This responsibility will be assumed by Professor Richard Cameron, who will serve as advisor to students pursuing the minor. There will be no course release for these duties.

Library Resource Implications: No additional materials are anticipated for the minor.

Space Implications: As noted in the Budget Implications section, the minor will not require the creation of new courses or additional faculty; therefore, no additional classroom or faculty office space will be needed.

Unit Approval Date: July 24, 2014

College Approval: LAS Educational Policy Committee: October 20, 2014
LAS Faculty: November 19, 2014

Contact persons:
Richard Cameron, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics (rcameron@uic.edu)
Jessica Williams, Head, Linguistics (jessicaw@uic.edu)

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2015
Proposal to Establish the Minor in Linguistics

Courses

LING 150 Introduction to the Study of Language *(required for the minor)*
3 hours. The nature of human language and its grammatical, social, and biological aspects are covered. *Individual and Society course.*

LING 160 Language and Society *(required for the minor)*
3 hours. Language and its social context: linguistic variation in the community; types of linguistic interaction; language as a reflection of its social origins. *Individual and Society, and US Society course.*

LING 260 Language Acquisition, Language Contact and Bilingualism *(required for the minor)*
3 hours. The social and psychological aspects of three major areas of language acquisition and use will be addressed: child language acquisition, adult second language acquisition and bilingualism/language contact. *Prerequisite(s): ENGL 160. Recommended background: LING 150 or LING 160 or a similar course. Individual and Society, and US Society course.*

LING 406 History of European Standard Languages *(selective for the minor)*
3 OR 4 hours. The phenomenon of the "standard language" in Western and Eastern Europe. Same as CEES 406. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Taught in English. In cases where students speak languages other than English, they might receive tasks to research literature in that language (and on that language) and to present their research results. *Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above; and consent of the instructor.*

LING 480 Sociolinguistics *(selective for the minor)*
3 OR 4 hours. The study of language structure and use involving socially-informed pragmatics, ethnography of communication, sociolinguistic variation and dialectology, and issues of bilingualism. Same as ANTH 480. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. *Prerequisite(s): LING 405 or junior standing and consent of the instructor.*

LING 483 Methodology of Second Language Teaching *(selective for the minor)*
3 OR 4 hours. Approaches, methods, and techniques for teaching second languages with a focus on speaking, listening, writing, reading, and on assessment and curriculum/syllabus design. Same as CI 483 and LCSL 483. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. *Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or above and consent of the instructor.*

LING 487 Computer Assisted Language Learning *(selective for the minor)*
3 OR 4 hours. An introduction to computer assisted language learning (CALL): the use of computer technology in second language reading and research. The effectiveness of CALL technology is assessed based on SLA theory and research studies. Same as GER 487 and SPAN 487. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Taught in English. Extensive computer use required. *Prerequisite(s): LING 483 or CIE 483 or GER 448 or FR 448 or SPAN 448 or GER 449 or FR 449 or SPAN 449; or SPAN 502 or FR 502 or the equivalent; and senior standing or above.*

ENGL 122 Understanding Rhetoric *(selective for the minor)*
3 hours. An introductory examination of rhetoric as an intellectual force shaping discourse in both academic and public domains. *Creative Arts, and Individual and Society course.*
ENGL 200 Basic English Grammar *(selective for the minor)*
3 hours. Students will be introduced to the basic grammatical structures and semantics of English. The focus will be on the interrelationship of syntax and semantics, showing how small changes in structure can affect the meaning of sentences.

PHIL 102 Introductory Logic *(selective for the minor)*

206 Introduction to the Philosophy of Language *(selective for the minor)*
3 hours. Philosophical issues concerning meaning, the relationship between language and thought, how language is to be distinguished from other forms of communication, and how truth relates to meaning. 3 hours. *Prerequisite(s):* PHIL 102 or PHIL 210.

SPAN 427 Studies in Language Policy and Cultural Identity *(selective for the minor)*
3 OR 4 hours. Examines the development, articulation, and effects of language policies on identity formation and culture. Focuses on the United States and the Spanish language, although other countries and languages are included. Same as LALS 427. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Taught in English. *Prerequisite(s):* Junior standing or above. Reading and writing knowledge of Spanish.
From: Walter Benn Michaels <wbm@uic.edu>
Subject: Re: LING minor
Date: January 30, 2014 at 11:59:22 AM CST
To: Jessica Williams <jessicaw@las.uic.edu>
Cc: Richard Cameron <rcameron@uic.edu>, Lisa Freeman <lfreeman@uic.edu>

This sounds fine to me -- I'm cc'ing Lisa just in case she can anticipate any issues that I'm missing but, assuming she can't, it's fine with me.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 30, 2014, at 12:41 PM, Jessica Williams <jessicaw@las.uic.edu> wrote:

Dear Walter,

Richard and I are working on resurrecting the Linguistics minor and would like to count two ENGL courses among the list of electives: ENGL 122 Understanding Rhetoric and ENGL 200 Basic English Grammar. I know that the second one, in particular, is very popular and fills quickly, but we would not be talking about a large number of students. We anticipate no more than three students a year for the next few years. We would like to be able to include your approval among the documents we submit to the EPC.

Many thanks, in advance,

Jessica

Williams, Jessica
Professor, Linguistics
University of Illinois at Chicago
312-996-0259
From: Anthony Laden <laden@uic.edu>
Hi Jessica and Richard,

It's funny, because I was just discussing with our DUS the advisability of getting other programs to count philosophy courses towards their majors and minors. It would be great to have 102 included as an elective for the linguistics minor. I would also suggest adding 206, our new mid-level philosophy of language course. Both have room for more bodies.

Let me know what beyond this e-mail you need from me.

Best,

Tony

Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy
University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S Morgan St
Chicago IL 60657

Reasoning: A Social Picture
Anthony Simon Laden

Available through all good bookshops, or direct from Oxford University Press at:

http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199606191.do

On Jan 30, 2014, at 11:46 AM, Jessica Williams wrote:
Hi Tony,

Richard Cameron and I are working on reestablishing our linguistics minor. One of the courses we would like to include as an elective is PHIL 102. In reviewing enrollments of the last few semesters, I see that there are plenty of seats available. In any case, there would be no more than a
handful of LING students involved. The minor will not require any additional work for you. We would simply like to include your approval of this arrangement among the documents we submit to the EPC.

thanks in advance,

Jessica

Williams, Jessica
Professor, Linguistics
University of Illinois at Chicago
312-996-0259
From: Luis Lopez <luislope@uic.edu>

Subject: Re: SPAN 427

Date: July 16, 2014 at 7:50:29 PM CDT

To: Jessica Williams <jessicaw@las.uic.edu>

Sure thing.

Luis

On Jul 16, 2014, at 2:18 PM, Jessica Williams <jessicaw@las.uic.edu> wrote:

Hi Luis,

We are working on revising the Ling minor. We would like to include SPAN/LALS 427 as a possible elective. Would that be OK with you? If so, just reply to this so I can include your approval with the paperwork.

Thanks!

Jessica

Jessica Williams
Dept of Linguistics
1719 University Hall
University of Illinois at Chicago
312-996-0259

jessicaw@las.uic.edu
Dear Richard,
I have not objections. I would be pleased to see the a linguistics minor.
Best wishes,
Elizabeth

On Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 8:47 AM, Cameron, Richard <rcameron@uic.edu> wrote:

> Elizabeth,
> >
> > An additional note: Susanne says to tell you that she approves this.
> > Also, we do not foresee that many students will be added to this class.
> > Probably, very few. - Richard
> >
> > ---------------------- Original Message
> > ----------------------
> > Subject: Request of GER 487
> > From: "Cameron, Richard" <rcameron@uic.edu>
> > Date: Fri, October 10, 2014 7:52 am
> > To: loentz@uic.edu
> > ---------------------------------------------------------------
> > >
> > > Dear Elizabeth,
> > >
> > > Jessica Williams and I are working on reestablishing our
> > > linguistics minor in the Department of Linguistics.
> > >
> > > One of the courses we would like to include as an elective is GER
> > > 487 Computer Assisted Language Learning which is cross-listed with
> > > LING 487 and SPAN 487.
> > >
> > > Would that be OK with you?
> > >
> > > If so, just reply to this so I can include your approval with the
> > > paperwork we have submitted.
> > >
> > > Thanks!
> > >
> > > - Richard Cameron
> > >
> > >