MEMORANDUM

TO: James F. Harris
Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Victor Korenman
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Second Language Acquisition (PCC Log. No. 04016)

February 18, 2005

On February 8, 2005, The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) approved our proposal to offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Second Language Acquisition. The proposal received final approval by the Board of Regents on February 18, 2005. This degree offering is effective September 2005. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed, as is a copy of the letter from MHEC.

The College of Arts and Humanities should ensure that this degree offering is appropriately reflected in all university documentation.

VK: sfm
Enclosures

Cc: Dr. Sylvester J. Gates, Chair, Senate PCC
Ms. Sarah Bauder, Student Financial Aid
Dr. Mary Giles, University Senate
Ms. Barbara Hope, Data Administration
Ms. Trudy Lindsey, Graduate Studies
Dr. Charles Rutherford, College of Arts and Humanities
Ms. Anne Turkos, Archives
Dr. Linda Yokoi, Records & Registrations
DIRECTIONS: Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one-page in length. Forms and appropriate attachments should be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs, who will assign a Log Number to each proposal. Also submit an electronic version of as much of the proposal as is possible.

DATE SUBMITTED__ PCC LOG NO. 04016

COLLEGE/SCHOOL__

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM__

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD____ DELETE____ CHANGE____

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

Establish a new Ph.D. Program in Second Language Acquisition

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

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APPROVAL SIGNATURES

1. Department Committee Chair

2. Department Chair

3. College/School PCC Chair

4. Dean

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

DATE

10/5/04

10/8/04

11/4/04

11/2/04

11/12-04

11/12/04

12/7/04

2/18/05

VPAAP Rev. 3/1/04
MEMORANDUM

December 8, 2004

To: C.D. Mote, Jr., President

From: Arthur Popper, Professor of Biology and Chair of the University Senate

Subject: Proposal to Establish a New Ph.D. Program in Second Language Acquisition, Senate Document Number 04-05-24

I am pleased to forward for your consideration the attached report entitled, "Proposal to Establish a new Ph.D. Program in Second Language Acquisition." The proposal was presented by Sylvester Gates, Jr., Chair of the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee. The University Senate approved the proposal at its December 7, 2004 meeting.

We appreciate your consideration of the proposal and request that you inform the Senate Office of your decision as well as any subsequent action related to your conclusion.

Enclosure: Senate Document 04-05-24

AP/MG/am

cc: William Destler, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
Sylvester Gates, Jr., Chair, Senate Programs, Curricula and Courses Committee
Mary Giles, Executive Secretary and Director, University Senate
Victor Korenman, Associate Provost, Academic Planning and Programs
James Harris, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities
Michael Long, Director, School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Ellin Scholnick, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs
Ann Wylie, President’s Chief of Staff

Approved:  
C.D. Mote, Jr.  
President

Date: 12/13/04
February 8, 2005

Dr. Clayton D. Mote, Jr.
President
University of Maryland, College Park
1119 Main Administration Building
College Park MD 20742-5031

Dear Dr. Mote:

The Maryland Higher Education Commission has reviewed a proposal received from the University of Maryland, College Park to offer a new Doctor of Philosophy in Second Language Acquisition degree program. I am pleased to inform you that the proposal has been approved. This decision was based on an analysis of the proposal in conjunction with the Maryland Higher Education Commission’s Policies and Procedures for Academic Program Proposals and the Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education. The program demonstrates potential for success, an essential factor in the Commission's decision.

For purposes of providing enrollment and degree data to the Commission, please use the following HEGIS code 1101-02 and the CIP code 16.0101 for the Doctor of Philosophy in Second Language Acquisition program. Should the program require any substantial changes in the future, please keep the Commission apprised. I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

Calvin W. Burnett
Secretary of Higher Education

CWB:gs

cc: Dr. Gertrude Eaton, USM
    Dr. Victor Korenman, UMCP
    Dr. Michael Long, UMCP
October 6, 2004

Dr. Michael H. Long
Professor & Director
School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
1105C Jimenez Hall
UMCP Campus ZIP 4821

Dear Professor Long:

I write to support in the strongest possible terms your proposal for a Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition in your school. As we have discussed, the success of the Center for Advanced Study of Language with its multi-million dollar budget is predicated upon the strength of the campus in general and the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in particular. In my view, the Ph.D. program in Second Language Acquisition is indispensable to our ambition of building the strongest cadre of researchers in the world addressing the real language problems of the nation.

In order to turn these words into action, I am prepared to commit to supporting this program in the following ways:

- CASL will provide start-up and ongoing support (against receipts for up to $20,000) for library acquisitions in disciplines relevant to your new program.
- CASL will provide full GRA support for graduate students in the proposed program who carry out research in CASL.
- CASL will provide release time for appropriate staff to offer the occasional course and advise students in your proposed program. CASL will seek to avoid charging the SLLC for this service.
- In accordance with CASL’s plan to use part of its recovered fee, CASL intends to provide “partner departments,” to the extent it is able, no-strings-attached graduate student support in hopes of attracting your students, faculty, and graduates to work in CASL.
- In order to assist in recruiting a senior faculty member for your proposed program, CASL will work with you to identify a senior level linguist that we both can use, whose full salary will be paid by CASL until you are in a position to buy back some portion of his/her time. During this time, CASL will permit him/her to teach an occasional course and advise students and will seek to avoid charging the
SLLC for this service. Assuming the work produced meets the needs of CASL, we will support this person on a long term basis and provide at least 2 years notice in case CASL has to cancel the arrangement.

There are many things I could say about the quality of your proposal, which is outstanding, and the need for such a program, the case for which you made brilliantly. One could also add that you built the best Applied Linguistics program in the world at the University of Hawaii, and so you know how to do it. However, I want my actions as detailed above to speak most eloquently of my support for this endeavor.

If there is anything I can do to be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Richard Brecht
Executive Director of CASL
October 14, 2004

To whom it may concern:

It was with great excitement that I read the proposal for a new doctoral program in Second Language Acquisition (SLA) to be initiated by the School for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (SLLC). Such a program would be of significant benefit to the university’s mission of creating, discovering, and disseminating information. Moreover, a Ph.D. program in SLA would be of great value to the professional language community.

For too long, language learning and teaching have been based on anecdotal evidence, personal experience, and trial and error. Research into the ways in which languages are acquired is seriously needed to inform the work of those who choose to learn or teach languages. While the field of SLA has begun to provide the evidence needed for data-driven decision-making, it is indeed only a beginning. Few universities offer high-quality Ph.D. programs in SLA, resulting in too few SLA researchers with the knowledge and tools to meet the needs of the field.

The program proposed is unique in its focus on the advanced learner. Most of the extant research has been conducted on beginning or intermediate level learners, leaving major lacunae in the knowledge base that can guide program development and instructional practices.

The National Foreign Language Center has been a part of the University of Maryland since July 2004. Our mission is complementary to those of SLLC and the Center for Advanced Study of Language (CASL). A Ph.D. program in SLA can only enhance each unit’s complementary missions, roles, and activities, providing mutual supports and benefits. The SLA expertise to be housed in SLLC would provide substantial opportunities for collaborative efforts, for shared faculty time, and for the NFLC to benefit from the presence of such distinguished faculty in our midst.

Two of NFLC’s major externally funded projects focus on advanced level language learners: the National Flagship Language Initiative and LangNet. Each of these projects draws heavily on SLA research, and therefore would benefit from research emerging from SLLC. Working collaboratively with SLLC doctoral students in SLA, NFLC could
study ways in which our two projects might further enhance the language proficiencies of advanced learners while simultaneously providing possible opportunities for dissertation research. We would also hope to work with SLLC to identify graduate students to whom we might award NFLC assistantships for such work.

Please know that the NFLC is enthusiastic about the possibility of a doctoral SLA program at the University of Maryland, and looking forward to working with SLLC as it develops. We are fortunate that SLLC has the leadership to envision, plan, and implement such a program.

Sincerely,

Myriam Met
Acting Director, National Foreign Language Center
To: Professor Mike Long

From: Stephen Koziol, Chair
Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education

Date: October 13, 2004

Re: Proposed Ph.D. in SLA

I have read your proposal for a Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition and think it will be an excellent and much needed program at College Park. I envisage a mutually beneficial relationship between The School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and my own department, Curriculum and Instruction, with some students from each unit interested in taking courses in the other. We will be happy to accept your doctoral students in our classes, and I am also pleased to see that Professor Rebecca Oxford will be a member of the program’s affiliate faculty. She, and perhaps other C & I faculty members, as well, would be welcome to serve on the occasional dissertation committee.

Please let me know if there is anything we in C & I can do to support what will undoubtedly be a first-rate program and one that brings credit to the campus.
8 October 2004

TO: Mike Long, Professor, SLA
FROM: C. Mitchell Dayton, Acting Chair
RE: EDMS support for SLA

I am pleased to learn that two of our senior faculty members, Drs. Robert Lissitz and Robert Mislevy, are going to serve as affiliated faculty members in your new doctoral program. I heartily support this affiliation since I believe that your program in second language acquisition represents an important addition to the options for graduate study that exist at the University at present. It is also welcome news that some of your doctoral students may be selecting EDMS research methods courses as a component of their programs. If I can provide additional support or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.
October 12, 2004

Proposed PhD Program in Second Language Acquisition

Dear Mike,

We wholeheartedly support SLLC’s proposal to mount a new PhD program in Second Language Acquisition. We would be happy to welcome the students within this program into our courses, and particularly (at your request) into PHIL650 Philosophy of Science, which is designed for beginning graduate students. I am also personally very happy to become an Affiliate Faculty member linked to this program, as a result of my interests in language and in cognition. (I believe the names of two or three other faculty members could appropriately be added at a later stage.)

I have read over your proposal, and it seems to me rigorous and well thought out. We wish you every success.

Yours with best wishes,

[Signature]

Peter Carruthers
Professor and Chair
Dear Mike,

Both me and my faculty are delighted with the prospect of a PhD in second language acquisition in the SLLC and are willing to do our part to make this prospect a reality. To wit: we would be happy to accept SLA PhD students into our courses, and Colin Philips and Andrea Zuckowski (from Linguistics) have agreed to be affiliate faculty for this program.

There are several reasons why we think that this PhD program would be good for our department. First, it will complement the research interests of faculty in Linguistics. As you know, we have a strong interest in first language acquisition. A PhD program in where first class research will be conducted on second language acquisition will be of obvious benefit. Second, such a program will broaden the options for our own PhD students who wish to develop an expertise in a related field. We encourage our students to broaden their interest both for intellectual reasons and because it makes them more marketable. The options this new program will offer should substantially broaden and strengthen this effort. Lastly, it has been my experience that faculty interact most strongly when there are common students to mentor. Thus, this program will encourage greater cooperation and mingling between the faculty in SLLC and the linguistics department, to the benefit of all.

In sum, the linguistics department wholeheartedly supports this program. This is really great news!

Norbert Hornstein
Professor/Chair Linguistics

October 8, 2004.
To: Professor Mike Long
From: Nan Bernstein Ratner, Chairman
Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences
Date: October 11, 2004
Re: Proposed Ph.D. in SLA

My faculty and I have read your proposal for a Ph.D. program in SLA with great care and interest, and offer strong support for this new doctoral option on campus. A number of faculty in HESP have interests in second language acquisition in typical and atypical populations, and are happy to offer support to the program through guidance of independent study options, thesis committee participation, and permission of SLA students to enroll in HESP courses. These faculty include:

- Nan Bernstein Ratner, Professor (expertise in normal and atypical language acquisition, psycholinguistics, cross-linguistic analysis of child speech and language);
- Rochelle Newman, Assistant Professor (expertise in psycholinguistics, speech perception, language acquisition)
- Froma Roth, Associate Professor (expertise in typical and atypical language acquisition in children and adolescents)
- Grace Yeni-Komshian, Professor emerita (expertise in second language acquisition, bilingualism)

It is additionally possible that Assistant Professor Yasmeen Shah, who will arrive in Spring 2005, will express an interest in being affiliated with this program; her expertise includes neurimaging of language functions.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help foster this very desirable program.