March 6, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ann Wylie
   Interim Dean, Graduate School

FROM: Phyllis Peres
      Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposals to Add a Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies and a Master of Professional Studies in Persian (PCC Log Nos. 05043 and 05044)

At its meeting on March 3, 2006, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses approved the proposals to add a Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies and a Master of Professional Studies in Persian. Copies of the approved proposals are enclosed.

The Committee expressed concern about having graduate courses taught by individuals who are not candidates for admission to the Graduate School faculty. However, they also appreciated the need for immediate action to establish the Flagship programs. The proposal was approved on the understanding that the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures will ensure that all courses will be taught by regular faculty in the near future.

The changes are effective immediately. All advisors should be notified and the College should ensure that the approved guidelines are followed.

/cwr
Enclosure

c: James Baeder, Chair, Senate PCC
   Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
   Mary Giles, University Senate
   Barbara Hope, Data Administration
   Anne Turkos, Archives
   Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
   Gay Gullickson, Graduate School
   Judith Broida, Office of Professional Studies
   Kristin Owens, Office of Professional Studies
   Michael Long, School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED March 3, 2006
PCC LOG NO. 05044

COLLEGE/SCHOOL
Office of Professional Studies/Graduate School/ College of Arts and Humanities

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures – MPST Persian

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD X 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.)

Attached is a program agreement for a Master of Professional Studies in Persian.

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.)

A new graduate program designed for a professional audience. After conducting market research, the need for increased Persian language proficiency and culture is evident in the regional area. This program is self-support.

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
Program Agreement for

Master of Professional Studies in Persian

February 14, 2006

The University of Maryland is committed to providing educational programs that meet the needs of a variety of audiences. As part of our graduate offerings, the Master of Professional Studies and the Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies are designed for adult students who wish to increase their subject-matter knowledge as well as prepare them for new challenges related to their professional areas. These programs are managed by the Office of Professional Studies, with academic oversight by Academic units, and housed in the Graduate School.

**Academic Oversight Committee Members**

CORE Representative (committee chair and graduate director):
Ali R. Abasi
School of Languages Literatures and Cultures

Graduate School Representative:
Ann Wylie
Dean, Graduate School

OPS Program Manager:
Kristin A. Owens
Assistant Dean, Professional Studies

**Program Description**

The School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (SLLC), The College of Arts and Humanities and the campus, as a whole, are committed to the development of existing strengths in Middle East studies. SLLC is contributing with rapid development of its Arabic and Persian programs. The School was recently awarded National Flagship contracts for new advanced programs in Persian and Arabic, and the proposed MPST program in Persian are a function of the Persian award, being the mechanism by which selected applicants will enroll. The University of Maryland is utilizing the MPST program
model for the Flagship Program. The Flagship Programs are endorsed by the Provost as academically important to the growth of language study to the university.

A part of the National Flagship Language Initiative, this federally funded, full-time program offers students who already possess basic functional ability in Persian (roughly ILR 1+ or better, ACTFL Advanced or better, or 3-4 semesters of Persian) an unprecedented opportunity to develop professional proficiency in Persian, sufficient to study through, or work in, the language. The program will employ an innovative, modular, task-based, multi-strand curriculum. The main content areas will be modern Iranian culture, politics and international relations. Students who successfully complete the required courses (30 credits) will receive a Master of Professional Studies in Persian. The Persian Flagship Program will provide students with a wide range of courses in the Persian language, literature and culture. In addition, more focused studies along the following tracks will be offered:

- **Persian for Career Professionals**: Task-based instruction (surveys, information-gathering research, presentations using technology in Persian) with targeted feedback to promote professional-level language competence.
- **Persian for Academic Purposes**: Initial “sheltered” course offerings will be in political science and international relations, taught in Persian.
- **Persian Community Internship**: Task-based instruction tied to internships in the local Persian-speaking communities.

Flagship students will effectively be able to live in a Persian-speaking environment during their time at the University of Maryland, with at least five hours a day of structured language learning experiences, plus additional language exposure through various combinations of peer tutors (Persian native speakers matched with Flagship students in the same academic or career field) and faculty mentors, a dedicated Persian study area filled with Persian multimedia resources, possibility of residence in Persian Language House, and a rich variety of visiting speakers, field trips, and other formal and informal cultural experiences. The capstone experience for Flagship students will be Persian immersion -- a year of specialized study and/or internships in a Persian-speaking environment, the exact nature of which is being determined. Full funding is available through National Security Education Program (NSEP) to qualified students willing to make a two-year commitment to government service.

**Admissions Criteria**

The admissions policy will reflect current university standards, including the prerequisite bachelor’s degree and a 3.0 GPA is all undergraduate classes. Official undergraduate transcripts from all colleges attended must be provided. As is currently the case, professional experience may be substituted for an entrance exam and students must have completed the prerequisites for courses in the program.

As part of the admission process, applicants need to schedule a test with the Center for Persian Studies to demonstrate the required level of Persian language proficiency.
**Required Courses**

**PERS 411 Readings in Iranian Islam I (3 credits):** Intermediate task-based course aiming to provide students with extensive exposure to authentic texts related to Islamic culture and history in Iran. Focuses on enhancing students’ skills in the target language, acquiring and using complex grammatical structures and vocabulary, improving their discourse-related skills, as well as engaging learners in real-life tasks that allow them to use Persian to write/talk about issues specific to Islamic culture and history. Prerequisite: PERS 342 or instructor’s permission.

**PERS 601 Modern Persian Literature (3 credits):** Selected readings in Persian poetry, fiction, and drama covering topics related to contemporary Iranian society and culture. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**PERS 611 Practicum in Persian/English Translation (3 credits):** Analysis and translation into English of literary and expository Persian texts. Focus on interdependence of language, context and culture. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**PERS 641 Iranian Media and International Relations (3 credits):** Covers the political interests and diplomatic positions of Iran in the contemporary international context as reflected in its print and electronic media. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**PERS 689 Special topics in Persian Language Studies (3 credits):** An in-depth analysis of a particular aspect of Persian language studies. Topic to be announced when course is offered. Repeatable to 6 credits if content differs. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**PERS 632 Film and Popular Culture in the Persian-speaking World (3 credits):** Study of socio-cultural, political and identity issues in the Persian-speaking world through examination of film, radio and television. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**PERS 642 Political Issues in Contemporary Iran (3 credits):** Analysis of current political context in Iran; impact of modernization and westernization. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**PERS 662 Persian Sociolinguistics (3 credits):** In-depth examination of the three main variants of the Persian language -- Iran (Farsi), Afghanistan (Dari) and Central Asia (Tojiki) -- as well as the emerging language of the Persian-speaking diaspora in the West (LA Persian). Topics include: language variation and change, internationalization, nationalist paradigms. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**PERS 672 Culture and Commerce in the Persian-speaking World (3 credits):** Major issues in the business cultures of Iran and the Persian-speaking world. Discusses
relations between the state, private sector, and international arena. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**PERS 698 Special Topics in Iranian Literature and Culture (3 credits)**
An in-depth study of a particular aspect of Iranian Literature and Culture. Topic to be announced when course is offered. Repeatable to 6 credits if content differs. Taught in Persian. Prerequisite: department permission.

**Faculty**

Faculty selection and appointments are made by the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. Current faculty may include:

Ali R. Abasi  
Lecturer  
Persian Language  

Nahal Akbari  
Lecturer  
Persian Language  

Farkhondeh Shayesteh  
Lecturer  
Persian Language  

**Program Sequencing**

Courses will follow a traditional semester format.

| Fall 2006 | PERS 411  
PERS 601  
PERS 611  
PERS 641  
PERS 689 |
|----------|----------|
| Spring 2007 | PERS 632  
PERS 642  
PERS 662  
PERS 672  
PERS 698 |

May 2007 Graduation - Masters
Outcomes and Assessment Plan

The purpose of this plan is to set clear guidelines, identify articulated outcomes and ensure avenues for continuous improvement for each graduate certificate and program managed by the Office of Professional Studies. It is our mission to provide high quality programs that meet UMD’s institutional goals and objectives for educational activities, while providing flexibility for curricular changes as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures and Criteria</th>
<th>Assessment Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Students will demonstrate understanding of Persian studies related to interdisciplinary content-areas | Successful completion of required integrated coursework, including politics, literature, international relations and special topics  
Criterion: all program students are required to maintain a cumulative 3.0 in all MPST coursework in order to successfully complete program. 100% of a graduating cohort will attain a B (3.0) grade. | This data will be collected annually, beginning Fall 2006.  
After each program cycle, curriculum will be reviewed to assess program cohesiveness. |
| 2. Students will demonstrate gains in Persian language proficiency                          | All courses will be instructed in Persian. Students will conduct all class discussions and assignments in Persian.  
Criterion: attainment of level 3 on the USG proficiency scale (equivalent to ‘Professional’ on the ACTFL Scale)                                                                                                               | All data will be collected annually, beginning Fall 2006.                           |
| 3. Students will increase knowledge base of current issues related to Persian culture       | Successful completion of special topics course; with paper and/or special project focusing on current world issues.  
Criterion: attainment of B (3.0) grade or better  
An exit interview will be conducted                                                                                                         | All data will be collected annually, beginning Fall 2006.                           |

Responses will be collected and analyzed...
conducted with a random sample of graduates (20%) to assess their overall satisfaction with the program.

discussed with the Academic Oversight committee for retention purposes.

UMD Roles and Responsibilities

Office of Professional Studies

Program Manager
1. perform market research with marketing team
2. meet with campus partners to build internal team for program
3. create budgets
4. manage daily aspects of program
5. provide all necessary administrative support
6. develop Internal Partner MOA
7. coordinate Academic Oversight Committee
8. spearhead approval process on campus
9. manage program logistics (rooms, schedules, student orientation, instructor contracts, campus waivers)
10. manage marketing initiatives to promote program
11. assist with student retention issues
12. liaise with instructors on student concerns
13. evaluate the program

SPOC Manager:
14. manage the creation of web sites for admission and registration processes
15. enter courses into the system (with appropriate codes)
16. assist students with online admissions and registration
17. monitor student academic progress with graduate school
18. answer administrative questions from students
19. monitor enrollments and student progress
20. manage all program-related forms (admissions w/graduate school, graduation application, etc.)
21. assist with graduation clearances

OPS Financial Manager:
22. review the budgets
23. make transfers to academic partners

Graduate School
1. provide rep to serve on Academic Oversight Committee
2. ensure that Graduate School requirements are met
3. process graduate student admissions
4. monitor academic progress
CORE Department
1. provide rep to serve on Academic Oversight Committee
2. assist with identifying appropriate audiences for marketing initiatives
3. identify instructors for the core courses
4. manage academic disputes
5. manage grading process with instructors/dept via UMEG
6. provide FRS account # for revenue transfer
**Campus Approvals:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judith K. Broida</td>
<td>Associate Provost, Dean of Professional Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Harris</td>
<td>Dean, Arts and Humanities (CORE Dean)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Long</td>
<td>Director, School of Languages, Literatures &amp; Cultures (CORE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCC, Graduate Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Wylie</td>
<td>Dean, Graduate School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCC, Campus Senate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis Peres</td>
<td>Associate Provost, Academic Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>