May 4, 2007

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Phyllis Perez
    Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to modify the B.A. in Chinese (PCC log no. 06054)

In its meeting today, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved your proposal to modify the curriculum of the B.A. in Chinese. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed.

The changes are effective Fall 2007. The College should ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc: Richard Ellis, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Mary Giles, University Senate
    Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Anne Turkos, Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Kathy McAdams, Undergraduate Studies
    Elizabeth Loizeaux, College of Arts & Humanities
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 Rollert, 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__Feb 6, 2007__ PCC LOG NO. 06054

COLLEGE/SCHOOL__ARHU/SLLC__

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM__CHIN__

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

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.)

The Chinese Program wishes to make three changes to the major.

We currently require 18 credits of Chinese language-focus courses above First Year level and 18 credits of upper-division coursework, including 6 in history, 3 in literature, 3 in linguistics, and 6 elective credits (which may include language, literature, linguistics, history, or other topics as approved by the Program advisor).

We wish to
• add one required course at the 200-level (increasing total to 39)
• simplify the way that the language requirement is met (by proficiency, rather than by specific courses or credits).
• delete references to specific courses outside SLLC and note categories of courses, which will be chosen in consultation with UG advisor

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.)

1. Chin 207 provides instruction not found elsewhere in sequence
2. Flexible wording of language proficiency provides for heritage and non-heritage needs
3. Flexible wording of civilization/history requirement allows for fluctuations in offerings outside SLLC

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair

2. Department Chair

3. College/School PCC Chair

4. Dean
6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
Proposed Changes to the Undergraduate Chinese Major
University of Maryland, College Park
College of Arts and Humanities

Summary
The Chinese Program wishes to make three changes to the major.

We currently require 18 credits of Mandarin Chinese language above First Year level, and 18 credits of upper-division coursework, including 6 in history, 3 in literature, 3 in linguistics, and 6 elective credits (which may include language, literature, linguistics, history, or other topics as approved by the Program advisor).

We wish to

- add one required course at the 200-level (increasing total to 39)
- simplify the way that the language requirement is counted (by proficiency, rather than by specific courses or credits).
- delete references to specific courses outside SLLC and note categories of courses, which will be chosen in conference with Program advisor

Present major requirements:
- Language: 18 credits above First Year Level, from among CHIN201/202/203/204/301/302/305/306 or higher
- Civilization/History: 6 credits from one of the following combinations HIST284 and HIST481 or 485; or from HIST285 and HIST 480
- Electives: 12 credits at the 300-level or higher. Among the four, one must be in Chinese linguistics and one in Chinese literature

Proposed major requirements:
- Language skills courses: 18 credits above first year, or exemption by exam. Exempted students will take replacement credits in consultation with Department advisor for a total of 18 (see “Electives” below).
- Requirement: CHIN207 (3 credits)
- Chinese Civilization/History: 6 credits from outside department
- Electives: 12 credits at the 300-level or higher. Among the four courses, one must be in Chinese linguistics and one in Chinese literature. (Students who place out of some or all of the required language skills courses will take more electives to satisfy the 39 credits required of the major.)

N.B. The course sequencing of all students must be developed in consultation with Departmental Advisor, who will approve all choices.
Justification for requiring CHIN207 “Linguistic Resources for Students of Chinese” as part of the major, an addition of 3 credits. This course gives students the tools they need to be independent learners, i.e., to enable them not to have to rely on their instructors as much as they may be tempted to otherwise. The material is best suited to introduction at the 200-level, rather than as upper-level coursework (upper-level linguistics coursework in the Chinese major takes these basic skills as givens).

The main topics covered are:

- Training in the use of Chinese dictionaries. Dictionary-use in Chinese is a complicated process, since the native writing system is not alphabetic but uses non-phonetic symbols that often must be looked up by shape alone. There is an entire vocabulary for describing the shapes and components of Chinese characters, and students need to learn it. No modern language outside of East Asia has this kind of problem, and so the need for special dictionary training does not arise in other language majors; Japanese does have the problem, but Maryland’s Japanese program introduces far fewer Chinese characters than the Chinese Program does and so the problem is less severe there. The Chinese Program is unable to cover this material in regular language classes, but students nevertheless need to learn it and practice it until they can use it with ease.

- An introduction to the relationship between traditional and simplified Chinese characters. The Chinese program requires students to know both types of characters, but no other existing coursework teaches the relationship between the two systems. The chief difference between the two systems is more political than anything else, but for exactly that reason many people who learned one find themselves very uncomfortable with the other. That is true in the Chinese linguistic world as well as among students outside of China. We find that the training in CHIN207 eliminates the problem, making our students comfortable with all the forms of Chinese script they are likely to encounter in the real world.

- An overview of basic Chinese geography and the main regional variations of Mandarin. Although China is politically one country (more or less), culturally it is as varied and complex as the whole of Europe from Ireland to Spain to Turkey to Russia. It has proven useful to give undergraduates a basic idea of the geographical names of the major regions and something about the ways that Mandarin (standard spoken Chinese) varies regionally in the real world. However, that information cannot be given in a regular language program, so it is being introduced here.

- A review of elementary grammar. It is not possible to do this in regular coursework, which concentrates on teaching the language, rather than analyzing it. However, the ability to analyze grammar correctly and painlessly is a crucial element of learning Chinese well, and we consider it absolutely necessary to the major.

Resources needed: No new resources are needed. The Chinese Program committed itself in 2004 to offering this course at least once every academic year. (It was not offered in 2006-07 because the usual instructor was on leave and the trained substitute fell suddenly ill; no alternate was available to cover the course on short notice. However, the Program intends to continue offering it at least once every year.)
Sample course sequences

Student 1: no previous Chinese

Chin 201, 202, 203, 204, 301, 302 (18 credits)
Hist 284, 481 (6)
Chin 207 (3)
Chin 3xx, 3xx, 4xx lit, 4xx ling (12)

Student 2: high-performing heritage speaker

CHIN 207 (3)
HIST 284, 481 (6)
CHIN 3xx or 4xx lit, 4xx ling (6)
8 additional courses (24 credits), to be chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor from among the following:
CHIN 314, 315, 316, 418a, 418b, 421, 422, 423, 424, 442
EALL 300, 310
or approved coursework from outside Department
Catalog Description:

Chinese major requirements:

Language skills courses: 18 credits above first year, or exemption by exam. Exempted students will take replacement credits in consultation with Department advisor for a total of 18 (see “Electives” below).

Requirement: CHIN207 (3 credits)

Chinese Civilization/History: 6 credits from outside department

Electives: 12 credits at the 300-level or higher. Among the four courses, one must be in Chinese linguistics and one in Chinese literature. (Students who place out of some or all of the required language skills courses will take more electives to satisfy the 39 credits required of the major.)

N.B. The course sequencing of all students must be developed in consultation with Departmental Advisor, who will approve all choices.