13 May 2014

TO: Paul DeLuca, Provost

FROM: John Karl Scholz, Dean

RE: Request to Suspend Admission to Academic Programs Major: Languages and Cultures of Asia (596), including:
Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science (L&S)
Master of Arts-Languages and Cultures of Asia (L&S)
Doctor of Philosophy (L&S)
Options in: Civilizations and Cultures, Languages and Literatures, and Religious Studies

CC: Ellen Rafferty, Professor and Chair, LCA
Gery Essenmacher, Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs, L&S
Lea Jacobs, Associate Dean for the Arts and Humanities, Graduate School
Elaine Klein, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, L&S
Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost and Director, Academic Planning and Analysis
Nancy Westphal-Johnson, Associate Dean for Academic Administration
Susan Zaeske, Associate Dean for the Arts and Humanities, L&S

On May 6, 2014, the L&S Academic Planning Council considered the attached request to suspend admission to all academic programs in Languages and Cultures of Asia. This request was provoked by a series of faculty departures that render it difficult to serve new students admitted to these programs. In light of this difficulty, we would like this suspension to take effect as soon as possible (Fall 2014).

The faculty have made arrangements to teach-out students currently enrolled in these programs, using courses taught through other departments and by granting course substitutions for major requirements. Graduate students will continue to be mentored by LCA faculty who have moved to other departments. The Graduate School is meeting with graduate students to address questions and assist with this situation. Regarding incoming students, no offers for Fall 2014 admission were extended at the graduate level. The Office of Academic Planning and Institutional Research notified the L&S Dean’s Office that four incoming undergraduates had expressed an intention to major in LCA. These students were contacted and notified that admission to this program will be suspended; they were also advised that UW-Madison offers many other opportunities to pursue studies in Asian languages and cultures.

The Department has been discussing plans to restructure. We anticipate that as those plans mature, we may receive a proposal to reconfigure or close these programs. We hope to know more about those plans within the three-year horizon for program suspensions, and expect to report back to UAPC by December 2015. The L&S Academic Planning Council unanimously approved this request.
April 23, 2014

Dean Karl Scholz
College of Letters and Science

Dear Dean Scholz,

As you are aware, during the 2013–14 academic year, the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia has been reviewing its academic mission, programs, and organization under the guidance of Associate Dean Sue Zaeske. For a variety of reasons, LCA has experienced the loss of six of its ten faculty members over the past one year (see the annotated listing below). As a result of the faculty losses, the LCA executive committee voted unanimously at its April 16, 2014 meeting to request that the College suspend admissions to all LCA degree programs.

LCA Restructuring Proposal

Although the future of the LCA degree programs is not clear at this point, the department had three retreats in the Fall of 2013 that resulted in a comprehensive proposal with multiple options for its possible reorganization. This plan, which was submitted to the Dean’s office in January 2014, outlines the options for merging with one or more departments. The plan also acknowledges the likelihood that LCA will not exist in its current structure in the future.

The options in our plan emphasize the central importance of the LCA language programs, which provide instruction in up to 19 less-commonly-taught Asian languages. UW has a long-standing commitment (since 1960) to the teaching of these languages and receives strong support from four National Resource Centers: the Center for South Asia, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Center for East Asian Studies, and the Center for Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

Current Students

LCA currently has 45 declared undergraduate majors, 25 of whom are in their senior year. The LCA courses listed in the 2014–15 Time-Table provide the range of required and elective courses that will enable this cohort to meet its graduation requirements in the next two semesters. Current LCA faculty are deeply committed to “teaching out” this cohort. LCA faculty member who has moved from LCA to other UW department will continue to teach LCA courses, using existing cross-listings as well as the “meets with” rubric. Professor Uli Schamiloglu, LCA’s designated Undergraduate Advisor, has been actively guiding undergraduate majors this
academic year towards completion of their graduation requirements, and will continue to be available for advising, as necessary.

LCA currently has 5 M.A. degree students and 18 Ph.D. degree students all of whom have a faculty advisor in the department. The LCA Executive Committee has granted Affiliate Faculty status to faculty members who have relocated or are relocating on campus. This will allow relocated faculty members to continue supervising their graduate advisees and chair the M.A. and Ph.D. committees. LCA’s Academic Programs Committee and the department as a whole thoroughly reviewed all current M.A. and Ph.D. students in February–March 2014. Each graduate student’s program of study, required coursework, transfer credits, schedule of examinations, and thesis or dissertation defense is in place, and he or she has been in close contact with his or her faculty advisor during this transition. Professor Vinay Dharwadker, as Director of Graduate Studies, has met individually with all current LCA graduate students who have sought information about the transition during this academic year.

In addition, in April 2014, the department arranged a meeting of all its graduate students with Associate Dean Sue Zaeske and Assistant Dean Elaine Klein from the College, as well as Assistant Dean Kelly Haslam and Student Services Coordinator Elena Hsu from the Graduate School to review the effects of change on the graduate student programs and to address the individual and collective concerns of the graduate students. At this meeting the department, College, and Graduate School representatives all emphasized their commitment to serve the students’ needs, so that they will all be able to complete their respective degrees. Before the end of the Spring 2014 semester, LCA will send out a comprehensive letter to its graduate students, prepared in consultation with the College and Graduate School, informing them in writing about the transition and about the resources available to them.

**Request to Suspend Admissions, Starting Fall 2014**

During Spring semester of 2014, LCA has continually reassessed the retirements and relocations of its faculty members, as well as the numerous uncertainties about reorganization with respect to other humanities departments, a possible School of World Languages, the Language Institute, the Division of International Studies, and the relevant area Centers.

Given the bigger picture at this time, LCA has voted unanimously to request the College to suspend admissions to LCA academic programs, starting Fall 2014. The department would be grateful if the College APC could approve this request at its next meeting so that the suspension of programs can be implemented promptly.

Respectfully yours,

Ellen Rafferty
Professor and Chair
Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia

Attached: List of LCA Faculty
LCA Faculty, Academic Year 2013–14

Below is a list of LCA faculty with notes on their statuses and affiliations.

1. Associate Professor Donald Davis: accepted position at the University of Texas–Austin, effective Summer 2013
2. Professor Robert Bickner: retired from UW, effective January 2014
3. Professor Joseph Elder: to retire from UW, effective May 2014
4. Associate Professor Preeti Chopra: relocated to Art History, UW, effective Fall 2013
5. Professor Vinay Dharwadker: relocated to Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies, UW, effective Fall 2014
6. Professor Anne Hansen: relocated to History, UW, effective Fall 2014
7. Professor Anna Gade: currently in negotiations for possible relocation at UW
8. Professor Uli Schamiloglu, LCA
9. Professor Gudrun Buhnemann, LCA
10. Professor Ellen Rafferty, LCA