



June 26, 2008

Dear Curriculum Committee:

I am writing to request a new Book 3 listing for "Tibetan." Building on the success of the Tibetan language partnership with the University of Michigan, which began in 2006, the East Asian Studies Center (EASC) and the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (DEALL) hope to foster future success by increasing visibility of these offerings through a dedicated Book 3 listing.

DEALL and the EASC, with the support of the Foreign Language Center, launched the Tibetan initiative in the fall of 2006. As the lead faculty liaison, I submitted the EALL 694 Group Studies requests as well as the subsequent permanent course requests. These course sequences take advantage of the CIC CourseShare infrastructure to deliver a less commonly taught language (LCTL), an explicit priority of the CourseShare program, taught by one of the premier authorities in the field of Tibetan language and philosophy, Dr. Gareth Sparham (University of Michigan). Compared to Big Ten peer institutions, OSU is a relatively language poor environment (only 16 LCTLs offered compared to UW Madison's 60) and hence, the institutionalization of these course offerings will strengthen OSU's undergraduate GEC language options. At the same time, the continued availability of multiple levels of modern and literary Tibetan will greatly enhance the quality of our graduate programs in DEALL, History of Art and potentially other fields.

In the course of the last two years, OSU has built a solid partnership with the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan to enable the success of this coursesharing arrangement. In order to ensure the quality of the student experience, DEALL has cost-shared an onsite tutor and the East Asian Studies Center has sponsored other related expenses such as the sponsorship of periodic visits by the instructor to the OSU campus.

In 2007, student demand proved to be such that we began to courseshare both literary and colloquial Tibetan. Over the course of 2006-07 and 2007-08, a total of 12 courses were offered and a total of 41 OSU students have been enrolled in the courses of both literary and colloquial Tibetan. The demand for 2008-09 is expected to continue at a similar level with offerings to be expanded to simultaneous offerings of multiple levels of literary and colloquial Tibetan. Furthermore, with the creation of a separate language category of

“Tibetan” in the course enrollment menus, we expect undergraduate enrollment to increase.

Currently, all other East Asian language offerings at OSU, such as Chinese, Japanese and Korean, have their own Book 3 listing, allowing students to notice the availability of these offerings at a glance as they search for courses on BuckeyeLink. To date, Tibetan has not had this advantage. Because the Tibetan courses have been offered as EALL 694V Group Studies, their existence has been somewhat buried.

Despite this, enrollments in the courses have been strong for such a less-commonly-taught language. By creating a separate Book 3 listing and making these courses permanent offerings (which we are in the process of requesting), we can increase awareness of these offerings, further bolster enrollments, and institutionalize the Tibetan language program to ensure future success.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia Sieber  
Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures  
Director, East Asian Studies Center