Dear Jay Johnson,

ASC's Curriculum Committee has just approved changes to the course Persian 8891: Seminar in Iranian Studies, giving the course greater flexibility in meeting the needs of our graduate students in their preparation for research. Among a few other minor changes, the seminar can now be scaled to 3 or 4 units (rather than just 3), making it suitable for some subjects under this rubric that are best taught using 4 course hours rather than 3 per week in a semester-long session. Some of our current graduate students' research plans and preparation for the dissertation need exposure in Spring 2016 to research skills best taught with 4 rather than 3 units. (I myself am teaching the course.) The subject matter is rarely taught anywhere in the world (Zoroastrian priestly texts in the Pahlavi language) and some students have come to OSU knowing that this would likely be taught. Looking ahead at our students' plans, this is the most appropriate time to offer the course.

Therefore I appeal to your office to allow the recently approved changes to take effect for SP16 rather than later, despite the approved timeline for such changes.

Best regards,

Kevin van Bladel
Associate Professor and Chair
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
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