



December 7, 2006

Ed Adelson, Associate Executive Dean
Colleges of the Arts and Sciences
University Hall
N. Oval Mall

Dear Ed:

The Subcommittee B of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction has reviewed the changes for the Italian Undergraduate Curriculum and unanimously approved them on November 20, 2006. The changes in curriculum reflect the evolving pedagogy of the discipline that recognizes "grammatical structures as well as the four languages skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) are acquired if they are embedded in meaningful contexts that foster interaction and communication, the negotiation of meaning, and cognitive engagement." The Summary on pages 4 and 5 of the document address the innovations and salient aspects of the new curriculum that support this holistic thinking.

During our discussions, we had three questions of which the department has thoroughly answered. Italian explained that courses which have not been offered in the past two years (e.g. 202) will be offered on a consistent basis because of a new tenure-track faculty hire in 2007-2008. They also educated us on what is termed a "native speaker" (individuals born, raised, and educated in Italy) and why they are not able to participate in the program. We suggested that "permission of instructor" be added to their courses, and they concurred. As well, we sought and received concurrence from the Department of Theatre on two courses that dealt with Italian theatre and cinema.

In summary, Subcommittee B strongly recommends that the program proposal go forward. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Thank you,

Valarie Mockabee
Chair, Subcommittee B

cc: Jessica Mercerhill, ASC Curriculum Director
Janice M. Aski, Associate Professor, Department of French and Italian