



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

December 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Howard H. Karr  
Chairperson, Board of Regents

VIA: M.R.C. Greenwood  
President

VIA: Virginia S. Hinshaw  
Chancellor

FROM: *for me* Reed Dasenbrock  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reed Dasenbrock'.

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Second Language Studies,  
College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature, University of Hawai'i at  
Mānoa

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Board of Regents approve the Bachelor of Arts degree in Second Language Studies as a provisional program, to be administered by the Department of Second Language Studies in the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Spring 2011.

ADDITIONAL COST:

No additional funds are required. The proposed program will utilize existing faculty in the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature. Existing facilities are sufficient to run the program, and tuition associated with the program will cover program costs.

PURPOSE:

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Second Language Studies is designed to meet local, statewide, national and international needs for specialists who understand the nature of second language learning and its use in diverse circumstances. Graduates will be poised to contribute locally, nationally and internationally to K-12 and tertiary/post-secondary public and private language teaching and research, in social services for child and adult immigrants, as language educators in materials publishing, and in non-profit and governmental organizations. The proposed program also serves as excellent preparation for entry into graduate degree programs in a variety of language-related fields.

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Second Language Studies will replace the "major equivalent" presently available in Interdisciplinary Studies by strengthening what is currently offered with a degree program structure, enhanced advising, and greater articulation within the UH System.

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BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to Board of Regents Policy 5-1, the Board of Regents has the authority to approve new degree programs upon the recommendation of the President.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Second Language Studies (formerly the Department of English as a Second Language) is considered one of the oldest departments in second language studies in the country with a 40-year history and an excellent reputation for research and scholarship. While the Department currently offers the Master of Arts and PhD in Second Language Studies with around 100 graduate students, the Department also offers a full sequence of undergraduate courses at the 300- and 400-level which will support the proposed program. In addition, the Department also houses two ESL instructional programs: the English Language Institute, and the Hawai'i English Language Program.

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Second Language Studies is designed to:

- a) introduce students to key concepts, theory, and applications in second language studies;
- b) guide students through in-depth exploration of methodologies and topics of interest to second language professionals;
- c) provide students with hands-on experience in applying their learning to real-world issues in the domain of second language learning and usage; and
- d) afford students the opportunity to reflect on and consolidate their learning in support of their dispositions in the field and in their future endeavors.

All courses address theory, research, and practice, and all courses require students to engage in academic writing and speaking. In addition to the course requirements, students design a portfolio of their learning and accomplishments. This portfolio serves as one method of assessment of student learning outcomes for the program while also providing students with a practical professional tool for advancing their careers, and for subsequent scholarly pursuits. Details on the program requirements may be found in the attached degree proposal.

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Second Language Studies will implement the UH Mānoa strategic plan by partnering with the Department of Education to improve the overall effectiveness of public education in Hawai'i; by supporting research initiatives where Mānoa is uniquely positioned to excel; by delivering a modern, flexible, diverse and multicultural curriculum; by engaging all undergraduates in research and creative scholarship; and by educating a highly skilled, flexible, world-class labor force.

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The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Second Language Studies has the support of the dean of the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature, has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Mānoa Faculty Senate, and has the support of the Systemwide Council of Chief Academic Officers.

Board of Regents Policy 5-1(a) provides that all new academic programs, once approved, shall have provisional status until a review is conducted. As a baccalaureate degree program, the required review would be scheduled to take place during the 2015-2016 academic year.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents establish the Bachelor of Arts degree in Second Language Studies as a provisional program, to be administered by the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, effective Spring 2011.

**Attachments**

c: Vice President Linda Johnsrud  
Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Krystyna Aune  
Dean Robert Bley-Vroman