



Date: November 5, 2021

To: Hossein Saiedian, University Senate President
Faculty in the Department
Barbara A. Bichelmeyer, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

From: Karen Moeller, Chair Academic Policies and Procedure committee

Re: Program Discontinuance in the Center for East Asian Studies

In Accordance with University Senate Rules and Regulations USRR 8.2, the Academic Policies and Procedures committee (AP&P) has reviewed the documentation and held an open public hearing on October 13, 2021, regarding the recommendation to discontinue the MA in East Asian Studies in the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas.

In the submitted documentation titled “Recommendations for Discontinuance of an Active Academic Program”, the statement cites low enrollment in CEAS with respect to student credit hours and low numbers of students in the major. CEAS has proposed merging the MA degree as a concentration in East Asian Studies with the MA in Global and International Studies (GIST). Currently this proposal is moving through the university process with a projected first admit term of Spring/Summer 2022.

At the public hearing on October 13, 2021, two faculty members spoke in opposition to the program's discontinuance. One written statement was provided to the committee prior to the hearing. All statements were in opposition to program discontinuance. Significant concerns that the faculty voiced included a concern that the program was prematurely being discontinued without a clear transition plan with GIST and a concern that loss of this program would detrimentally impact KU's profile in international scholarship. The faculty suggested a postponement to allow the faculty and CEAS to review and formally approve the proposed changes. Faculty were concerned that a merger of CEAS with GIST would not offer the same qualifications to students and hinder their ability to enter graduate programs, seek employment and be recognized as experts in the field of East Asian Studies. Faculty are additionally concerned if merged with GIST, it will have difficulty attracting students to study East Asian Studies at KU. No one for GIST was present to offer clarification on the mergers.

On October, 29, 2021, AP&P met to discuss the submitted documentation and the statements expressed at the hearing. AP&P recommends that the MA in East Asian Studies be continued or at a minimum, be postponed in order to make a clear plan with GIST. The committee concluded that program discontinuance was not in the best interest for the university or for students. The committee felt that loss of the degree program would hinder the program's ability to attract future students and provide credentials to future students who desire to be experts in the field of East Asian Studies. Additionally, the committee was unable to find a cost saving with the closing of the program. In the submitted documentation “Center for East Asian Studies Program Review Submitted to KBOR,” it reports that this unit is cost-effective and through NRC and FLAS grants the center is able to help fund instructional and GTA support to other departments (East Asian Languages and Cultures), research, faculty professional development, travel and student tuition. Additionally, CREAS significantly supports the mission of the

university through outreach to communities and by enhancing the diversity and equity of KU through various cultural programs. In conclusion, for reasons stated above the AP&P Committee recommends for the MA degree to continue or, at the minimum, wait until detailed plans are outlined with GIST.

Documentation Reviewed by the Committee:

1. Recommendation for Discontinuance of an Active Academic Program, September 2021
2. Center for East Asian Studies Program Review Submitted to KBOR, February 2021
3. Written statement (available on governance.ku.edu webpage) - Anderson

C: John Colombo, Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences