

Recommendation for Discontinuance of Active Academic Programs

Name/Type of Program and Academic Plan Recommended for Discontinuance:

- BA & MA in German Studies (GERM-BA; GL_LGA-MA) CIP Code: 05.0125
- World Business Culture Undergraduate Certificate (WBUSCUL-UC) CIP Code: 24.0101
- PhD in Germanic Languages & Literatures (GRLLGA-PHD) CIP Code: 16.0500
- Department: German Studies
- School/College: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Number of students currently enrolled (from Tableau Academic Plan Counts – Spring 2021):

| Program | Spring 2021 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| World Business Culture UG Certificate | 13 |
| BA in German Studies | 16 |
| MA in German Studies | 0 |
| PhD in German Languages & Literatures | 0 |

Number of students enrolled over the past five academic years (from Tableau Academic Plan Counts):

| Program | Fall 2016 | Fall 2017 | Fall 2018 | Fall 2019 | Fall 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| World Business Culture UG Certificate | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 12 |
| BA in German Studies | 24 | 22 | 23 | 15 | 18 |
| MA in German Studies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PhD in German Languages & Literatures | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Number of program graduates over the past five years (from Tableau Degrees Awarded):

| Program | AY 2017 | AY 2018 | AY 2019 | AY 2020 | AY 2021 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| World Business Culture UG Certificate | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| BA in German Studies | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| MA in German Studies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PhD in German Languages & Literatures | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Rationale for recommendation:

In response to the Kansas Board of Regents' desire for program efficiency, the German Studies Department has proposed merging its undergraduate degree program with the Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures (SELL) as a concentration within the department's BA degree (to be renamed in accordance with the new department name, see below). The concentration is moving

through the University's approval processes and should become available to students in Spring or Summer 2022 pending University approval. The minor in German Studies began in Fall 2003, remains available to students, and will be moved to SELL.

In August 2015, the German Studies Department (at that time, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures) suspended admissions to its MA and PhD programs due to the shortage of tenure-track lines and the declining nation-wide trend in graduate applications. The last MA and PhD students graduated in 2016. Since these programs have been inactive for 5 years, they will be discontinued.

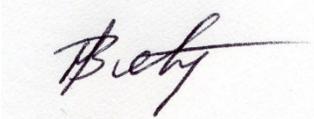
The German Studies Department is merging with Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures, effective 2022-2023. The units have requested to adopt the departmental name of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies (SGES). This new name has been approved by all the tenured and tenure-track faculty in the current SELL and GS departments. The new name will better reflect the merged unit's range of regional and interdisciplinary expertise, including expertise in Slavic Studies, German Studies, as well as Eurasian Studies.

Impact of discontinuance:

On students: Current students will be able to complete their BA degree in German Studies. Future students will not be able to enroll in the German Studies BA degree, but will have the option of enrolling in the German Studies concentration within the undergraduate degree program in SGES upon University approval or the German Studies minor. Graduate training in German, with admissions suspended since 2015, has not been available.

On faculty & staff: The department's four tenured/tenure-track faculty, one assistant teaching professor, one multi-term lecturer, and three lecturers will become part of the newly merged department. The department has a shared administrative assistant position with SELL.

On mission: The College and University will continue to offer options in German Studies at the undergraduate level. When the merger is completed, the faculty of the merged department will consider the option of adding a concentration in German Studies to its MA and PhD program.

Chair/German Studies:  **(Nina Vyatkina) Date: 8-23-21**

Interim Dean/CLAS:



Date: 24 Aug 2021

Provost/EVC:



Date: 25 Aug 2021

Department of German Studies Program Review
SUBMITTED TO KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS FEB 2020

Mission: With the emphasis placed on international education and research at KU and the centrality of modern Germany to an understanding of contemporary Europe, a comprehensive program in German Studies is essential to the mission of the University. As German ethnic culture has shaped the history of Kansas, many Kansans are descendants of immigrants from German-speaking Europe. The Department offers undergraduate students a diverse and challenging program in the language and culture of German-speaking Europe, including literature, the arts, history, business, and politics. The interdisciplinary German Studies curriculum integrates study abroad, research, and internship opportunities with a specific focus on how translingual and transcultural competence enable students to participate actively and productively in our global world. The unit provides the teaching, advising, and mentoring that students need to engage actively in their education, both in the classroom and in co-curricular activities.

Strengths, Productivity, and Qualifications of the Faculty: Due in part to size (5), the scholarly profile of the faculty is extremely diverse. Ways of disseminating results of this scholarship vary respectively. Faculty publish scholarly monographs, essays in refereed journals and edited volumes, book chapters, web-based or other digital materials, invited essays, scholarly editions or translations, collections of essays, pedagogical and curricular materials, and other scholarly products. The trajectories of faculty are also diverse depending on the stage of their scholarly career. The department's three senior scholars (Keel, Vanchena, Vyatkina) take on editorial projects and national service responsibilities or embark upon new research directions while assistant professors (Linden, Meyertholen) establish their footing in the research community and work on book manuscripts.

During the review period, faculty published 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals with one in press, 15 edited volumes and journal special issues, 15 book chapters with five in press, and received 8 honors/awards. Faculty also served as an editor or on editorial boards for several different journals or journal special issues. In comparison with German departments at 63 Research I universities (including many private and Ivy League institutions), the department's citation statistics greatly surpass the national median. In Cites per Faculty, Cites per Publication, and Total Cites, the unit is at the top of the nation (100th, 100th, and 93rd percentile, respectively).

The faculty also develop and publish innovative Digital Humanities research products, which potentially have broader impact due to their open access nature (Keel: a digital atlas of German dialects, Vanchena: a digital annotated edition of German-American poetry, Vyatkina: a digital linguistic database). In addition, faculty have a high impact on the discipline by actively presenting at major conferences, most of them national and international (8 invited keynote addresses, 63 invited presentations, and 76 refereed presentations in 2010 – 2018), and collaborating with colleagues at German universities on research projects.

Student Learning and Curricular Changes: Reflective of a downward trend of enrollments in language programs, the department, under the leadership of Prof. Vanchena (Director of Undergraduate Studies), instituted a new curriculum that moved away from the traditional language and literature approach and gave students a more contemporary, diverse, and challenging program in the language and culture of German-speaking Europe (literature, the arts, history, business, and politics). The curricular initiative encompassed all courses from beginning German to the senior capstone course. Along with these changes, the unit made significant improvements to academic advising and co-curricular programming, integrated undergraduate research into the curriculum, and more effectively incorporated study abroad into the undergraduate degree. Data shows that, prior to these reforms, enrollments had followed the overall downward trend and dropped more drastically (-35%) than the national average (-9.2%). The success of the undergraduate program, as detailed below, indicates that the far-reaching changes implemented have been highly effective: German Studies has reversed this trend and increased enrollments at a time in which the nationwide enrollments continued to decline. In 2017 the department received the University's Degree-Level Assessment Award for its efforts related to curricular reform and assessment.

Effectiveness of Degree and Program Demand: For the undergraduate degree in German Studies the number of graduates (10) meets minima requirements. In addition, the unit enrolls 40 students in its minor and awards 10 minors annually. This is in addition to serving 200-300 students each semester in other KU programs. The

department's undergraduate program attracts high-ability students who, on average, have a composite ACT score of 28.6. Furthermore, such students tend to have a second major or a minor (e.g., Global & International Studies, History, Business, Environmental Studies, Music, Microbiology, Linguistics) that increases their employability. This is borne out in the employment data for recent graduates who have gone onto such positions as special projects coordinator for non-profit organization affiliated with U.S. Dept. of State, translator for a medical software company, high school German teacher, human resources position for a global German sporting goods company, copy editor for a newspaper, and investment banking analyst. Graduates choosing to continue their education have done so in areas such as Germanic languages & literatures, social welfare, law, global studies, and speech pathology.

Due to declining demand on the national level as well as faculty departures, admissions to the master's and doctoral programs were suspended. However, most recent PhD graduates and some MA graduates have been successfully employed in lecturer or tenure-track positions at seven public universities, one private university, and high schools.

Service Provided to the Discipline and University: Given its size, faculty are called to perform multiple service activities with the service commensurate with the faculty experience and rank. Based on service to the International Society for German-American Studies, Prof. Keel received the Society's Outstanding Achievement Award. He has also been actively involved with the Kansas chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (KATG) and has organized the annual German language competition that has been attracting ca. 200 students from Kansas High Schools to KU each year since 1992. All departmental faculty serve as judges during these competitions. Prof. Vyatkina has had significant service commitments at the national and international level - serving on the Editorial Boards of two refereed journals, the Executive Board of CALICO (the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium) and the national review panel of the U.S. Fulbright Scholar program to Germany. She has also served as guest editor of two special journal issues (in 2015 and 2017), each one in a top-tier Linguistics journal. Senior faculty regularly review manuscripts for journals (including top-tier ones) and publishers (including Cambridge UP, Georgetown UP, Oxford UP, Routledge), conference abstracts, promotion and tenure dossiers for other US universities, grant proposals for US and international agencies (e.g., American Philosophical Society, Research Foundation Flanders), and PhD dissertations (e.g., for the universities in Australia and Germany). Assistant Professors have also begun establishing their footing in the profession. Prof. Linden has served as reviewer for several refereed journals. Prof. Meyertholen has organized regional conference panels and has been active in the KATG, having chaired the Testing and Awards Committee in 2017.

Teaching Loads, Student Recruitment/Retention, Ideal Program Size, Mentoring: The regular teaching load for faculty at KU is 2 courses per semester which faculty meet with appropriate releases for faculty with administrative appointments and those granted research-intensive time. The current size of the undergraduate program is optimal (25+ majors and 40 minors per year) since it can be handled by existing faculty. The department also enrolls 200-300 students per semester from other majors who take beginning and intermediate German courses (the German Language Proficiency Sequence, or GLPS) to complete the language requirement, general education courses and first-year seminars, and German reading courses (graduate students). Given the unit's size (five tenure/tenure-track faculty), additional growth has come from new online courses developed by Prof. Vanchena that have attracted a large number of students and serve a broad KU population. The unit is also evaluating whether to re-establish the MA program – perhaps with Education to create a MA in Teaching World Languages program to serve area teachers.

The faculty are committed to mentoring students – particularly in undergraduate research and career options. As a result, students regularly present their work at research symposiums and seminars. In 2017 Prof. Vanchena received the K. Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. In 2018 she also received the Dean's Award for Exceptional Student Mentoring (Research Excellence Initiative). All faculty mentored graduate students and served on thesis and dissertation committees prior to the suspension of the graduate program. In addition, an external review found that the department was a well-organized, effective, and efficient German language program with strong support and mentoring of instructional staff. The reviewers strongly recommended that the tenure-line position vacated by Prof. Keel (who retired in December 2019) be maintained as it is critical to the maintenance and ongoing development of the department.