

March 11, 2008

Memorandum

To: Senate Steering Committee

From: Susan Awbrey
Chair, UCUI

Re: Review of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Proposal for a New Major in Japanese Language and Literature

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts and Sciences submitted a proposal for a major in Japanese Language and Literature. The University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) has reviewed this proposal and has voted to approve it. UCUI wants to go further to indicate that it strongly supports passage of this proposal as one that we believe is very timely and will be significantly beneficial to Oakland University, the surrounding communities, and to the state of Michigan.

Program Strengths:

UCUI identified the strengths of this program and supportive factors as: 1) the growth of the program as a minor and the evolutionary development of the program over an extended period of time showing a strong departmental commitment, 2) interest in the major by current students, 3) the large number of Japanese companies (347) in Michigan with 177 in Oakland County, 4) over 6000 Japanese people residing in Oakland County, 5) Oakland County has a Japanese school that is the second largest in the United States (over 900 children) run by the Japanese government, 6) area high schools offering Japanese language, 7) the need for instructors of Japanese.

Issues and Concerns:

UCUI met with the chair of DMLL and with the lead faculty member on the proposal. The following issues were raised and the committee considered the answers given to be satisfactory. They should not impede the passage of this proposal.

- Development of an assessment plan
- Introducing a 300 level course too early in the program (issue of prerequisites)
- Insufficient language laboratory facilities
- Handling of academic advising
- Difference between the Japanese major and the Japanese Studies major
- Participation in STEP
- Modified major
- Source of students
- Number of Madonna students
- Development of internships
- Community college transfer model
- Number of students currently in minor
- Number of local schools offering Japanese language

Budget Item:

Although the Senate Budget Committee will be examining budget issues, UCUI wants to bring attention to the fact that we concur that the library's holdings are insufficient to adequately support the proposed major. We strongly recommend that funding be earmarked to improve library collections for the Japanese program.