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The University of Georgia

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University Council  
Athens, Georgia 30602

March 10, 2008

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2007-2008

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal to deactivate the Minor in Spanish will be on the agenda for the March 21, 2008, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Mr. David E. Shipley, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.  
Professor Jere W. Morehead



The University of Georgia

Department of Romance Languages

## PROPOSAL TO DEACTIVATE SPANISH MINOR

School/College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department: Romance Languages

Proposed Deactivation: Minor in Spanish

Proposed Effective Date: As soon as approved

Last Date Students will graduate with Minor: Spring 2011

### Abstract of minor and rationale for deactivation

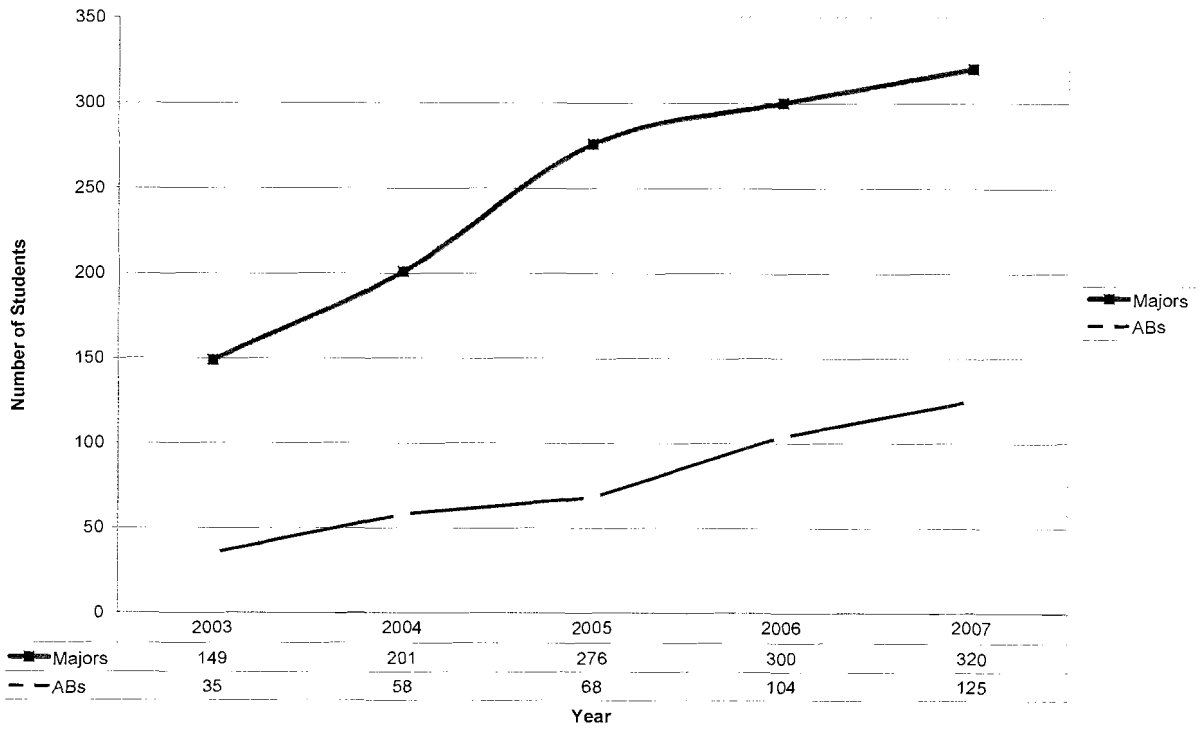
Due to the heavy demand for our Spanish courses, and in response to the findings in the recent seven-year Program Review of our department, the faculty in Romance Languages reached a decision in Spring 2008 to deactivate the minor in Spanish. In order to pursue its primary objective of academic rigor, the faculty decided that it was more important to serve the needs of our Spanish majors and majors from other units who require our courses in Spanish than to continue offering a minor.

The minor in Spanish has provided courses for students interested in studying Hispanic cultures in the Spanish Language but not seeking to complete the full set of requirements for the major. The minor consists of 5 upper division courses (two 3000 level courses, 3010 and 3030 or 3050, and three 4000 level courses). A student majoring in Spanish must take a total of 10 upper division classes (three 3000 level courses and seven 4000 level courses). Upper division Spanish classes are also taken by students in other Major degree programs, such as the BSEd. Foreign Language Education (Spanish Emphasis) degree and the new Latin American Studies major offered by LACSI.

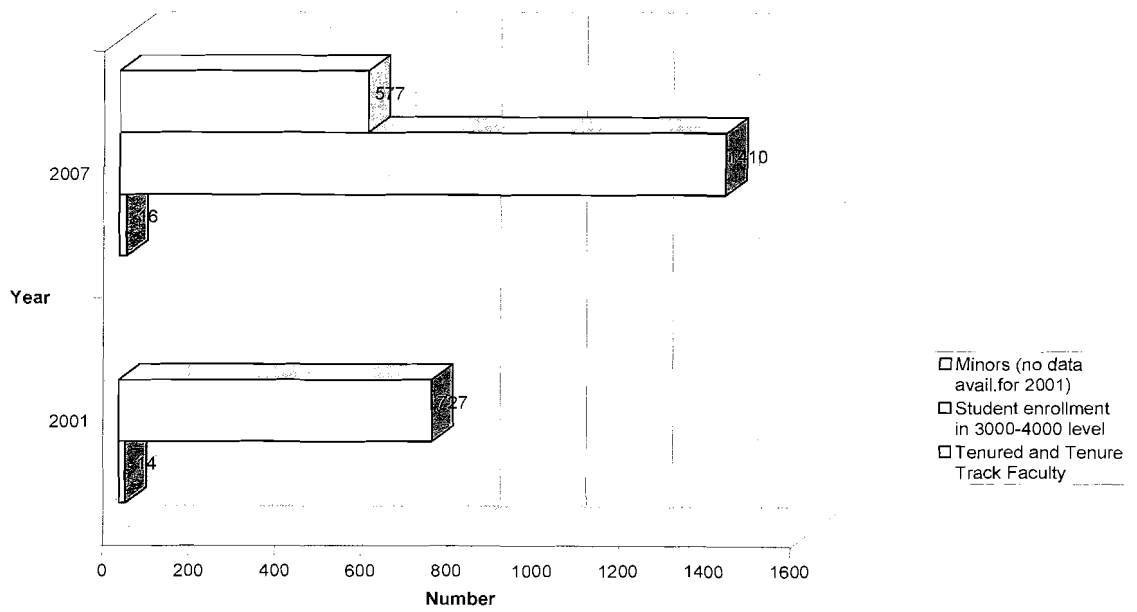
In the last few years, upper division sections in Spanish fill and close out during the first few days of registration, sometimes even the same day registration begins. This has created difficulties for students planning to graduate on time with a Spanish major. For example in Spring 2008 after add/drop had ended only 9 of the 75 sections of 3000-4000 level courses offered were not filled to capacity.

Supporting Data

Growth in Spanish Program



Spanish Faculty to Student Ratios (Fall 2001, Fall 2007)




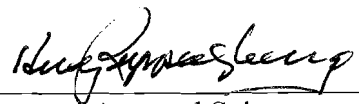
|                                       | 2001 | 2007 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|
| Minors (no data avail. for 2001)      |      | 577  |
| Student enrollment in 3000-4000 level | 727  | 1410 |
| Tenured and Tenure Track Faculty      | 14   | 16   |

The primary benefit of deactivation would be to alleviate the demand for our 3000 and 4000 level courses so that majors could register for the courses needed to complete their degrees in a timely manner. It would have the added benefit of ensuring that majors have contact with UGA research faculty in Spanish. In fall 2007 the ratio of tenure track and tenured faculty to students enrolled in 3000-4000 level courses was 1 to 89. It is currently possible for majors to graduate from our program without ever having had a tenure track or tenured professor as an instructor. This is an obvious disadvantage to our students applying for graduate programs. Deactivating the minor in Spanish would allow us to ensure that upper division courses be taught only by Faculty, Lecturers and Instructors holding the PhD, or ABDs under direct faculty supervision.

The Department of Romance Languages will continue serving the needs of our existing declared minors. Also, if healthy enrollments persist as in the past few years, we will continue to offer study abroad programs in Spain and Argentina that give all UGA students, not just Spanish majors and minors, an opportunity for an immersion experience at all levels of language learning and culture.

We have chosen not to eliminate the minor because, considering the changing demographics in the Southeastern United States, knowledge of Hispanic cultures and the Spanish language will be increasingly in demand among UGA students. Our university rightly values this knowledge as necessary to succeed in our global society. UGA's Strategic Plan states that "the challenge of workforce development in Georgia" is to provide graduates equipped with "sophisticated analytic, synthetic and compositional skills; language skills—in Spanish and Asian languages in particular." We hope that if additional Spanish faculty can be hired over the next few years we will be able to reactivate the minor while still maintaining the quality of instruction for all Spanish students.

  
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Department of Romance Languages  
Interim Head

  
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Assoc. Dean of Arts and Sciences