



# The University of Georgia

University Council  
Athens, Georgia 30602

March 17, 2017

## UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2016-2017

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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences for a new Department of Linguistics will be an agenda item for the March 24, 2017, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Alison F. Alexander, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Pamela S. Whitten  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

## **Proposal for the Establishment of a Department of Linguistics at the University of Georgia**

### 1. Proposal information

Academic Unit: Linguistics Program, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Originator of Proposal: Dr. Keith Langston, Director, acting on behalf of the faculty of the Linguistics Program

Vote of the Linguistics Faculty: 31-0 in favor of the proposal

Organizational structure before and after change: The Linguistics Program is currently a separate academic unit within Franklin College, which reports directly to the dean. The proposed department would occupy the same position in the overall organizational structure of the university.

### 2. Rationale

Language use is a unique human ability that is reflected in almost everything we do. The systematic, scientific study of language is valuable in its own right, but it also provides crucial insights for many other related disciplines, such as anthropology, literary and cultural studies, philosophy, sociology, education, psychology, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence. Professional linguists are employed in a wide variety of fields (for example, education, publishing, business and technology, national security, law), and the discipline as a whole has experienced substantial and steady growth.

Fig. 1. Linguistics degrees awarded nationally<sup>1</sup>

	2000	2008	2014
BA	727	1442	2068
MA	553	591	679
PhD	202	157	231

Despite the fact that the Linguistics Program at UGA faces considerable disadvantages due to its anomalous administrative status and lack of resources (see below), we have experienced similar growth and compare very favorably to full-fledged departments of linguistics at other major research universities. Based on data available from OIR, credit-hour production has almost doubled from the time of our previous program review, from 2598 in FY 2008 to 5160 in FY 2015 (note that these figures undercount our actual credit-hour production in LING courses, since most Linguistics faculty are budgeted entirely in other units). The numbers of students enrolled and degrees granted have also grown dramatically and in some cases exceed the national averages (Figs. 2 and 3).

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<sup>1</sup> Data in Figures 1-3 are taken from the 2015 *LSA Annual Report* ([http://www.linguisticsociety.org/sites/default/files/Annual\\_Report\\_2015\\_final.pdf](http://www.linguisticsociety.org/sites/default/files/Annual_Report_2015_final.pdf)) and the UGA Office of Institutional Research FACTS database.

Fig. 2. Linguistics degrees awarded at UGA, compared to national averages

	2000	2008	2014	2015	2014 national average per PhD-granting department
BA	2	16	27	31	26
MA	1	3	11	5	10
PhD	1	8	2	5	7

Fig. 3. Linguistics enrollments at UGA, compared to national averages

	2000 (Fall)	2008 (Fall)	2014 (Fall)	2016 (Fall)	2014 national average per department
BA	28	66	125	118	74
MA	9	19	17	16	38 (MA and PhD combined)
PhD	23	27	33	30	

Clearly, there is strong demand for training in Linguistics, and UGA is the only institution in the state of Georgia offering comprehensive academic programs in Linguistics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels (Georgia State offers degree programs only in Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language, and Emory University offers only an undergraduate degree). In the most recent NRC survey of Ph.D. programs across the disciplines (2010), UGA was one of only three Linguistics Programs ranked within a contiguous 14-state area including West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma (the other programs in the ranking were those at the University of Florida and Florida International University [applied linguistics]).

The quality of the UGA Linguistics Program, both in terms of our degree programs and faculty research, has been attested in two successive program reviews. In the most recent one, our graduate placement record was characterized as “nothing short of stellar,” with Ph.D. recipients over the last 8 years landing tenure-track positions at Tennessee Tech, Western Kentucky University, Missouri Western University, Norfolk State University, Coastal Carolina University, the University of Texas-El Paso, the University of North Georgia, and Arkansas State University; others are employed as lecturers at UGA, Emory University, the College of William and Mary, Pennsylvania State University, American University, and the University of Oulu in Finland. Graduates of the M.A. program have gone on to some of the top Ph.D. programs in the field (recently: two each at Harvard, UCLA, Ohio State, and Michigan, and one each at Cornell, MIT, Wisconsin, Arizona, UC-Davis, and Temple).<sup>2</sup> Our graduate students also regularly present their research at prestigious national conferences, such as the MLA, the Linguistic Society of America, and the American Dialect Society conferences.

Linguistics has been organized as an interdepartmental program for most of its history at UGA. Currently our faculty members are drawn from six departments in the Franklin College of Arts

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<sup>2</sup> Our M.A. program is actually recommended to potential applicants to the Ph.D. program in Indo-European Studies at UCLA as a way to enhance their qualifications; the only other programs mentioned by name are at the University of Munich and the EPHE/Sorbonne (see <http://www.pies.ucla.edu/admissions.html>).

and Sciences and three departments in the College of Education. However, this is not the optimal structure for our discipline or for an academic program of our size, for a number of reasons:

a. Although Linguistics naturally intersects with many other disciplines, it nonetheless represents an independent science with a naturally unified object: the human capacity for language. In studying this capacity, we pursue various sources of evidence. Among them are the formal structures of individual languages; patterns in speech production; patterns in language change over time; patterns in language variation across social contexts; first and second language acquisition; the real-time mental processing of language; and the functional instantiation of language in the brain. These all converge on a single object, and one whose study is not the traditional focus of most departments that house our faculty. As an autonomous discipline, Linguistics deserves its own autonomous status within the university.

b. The disciplinary integrity of linguistics is widely recognized and administratively supported at other institutions, where it is typically organized as a separate department. Eight of our twelve Comparator Peer Institutions and eleven of our twelve Aspirational Peer Institutions have Departments of Linguistics (or in one case, an autonomous Institute). A number of these have existed for over 40 years (at UT Austin, UC Berkeley, Cornell, Illinois, Michigan), and several of them are now among the very best in the country. We would also like to note that at the University of Florida, Linguistics was elevated from the status of an interdisciplinary program (established in 1969) to an independent Department of Linguistics in June 2010, and the Linguistics Program at the University of Kentucky became a full-fledged department in June 2016, so the change we are requesting here has recent parallels at other institutions in the region. *Out of our comparator and aspirational peer groups, UGA is currently the only institution to offer a full range of degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels without having a separate Department of Linguistics* (see Fig. 4).

c. Linguistics currently occupies an anomalous position in the structure of Franklin College, where it is the only degree-granting program of its type. We offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees and have more students than many departments in the college. At the same time, the decentralized nature of an interdepartmental program does not allow us the necessary control over our curriculum or the resources to serve all the needs of our current students and to provide adequate support for faculty whose research and teaching focus on linguistics.

Our request for reorganization as a department is in accordance with the recommendations of two successive program reviews, in 2007-08 and 2015-16. The top recommendation of the most recent review was that “[t]he Program should be upgraded to departmental status as soon as possible.” The review committee noted that we have reached the limit of our capacities, and failure to address the urgent needs in terms of faculty, staff, physical space, and funding would seriously jeopardize our ability to continue to function.

We strongly believe that reorganization as a Department of Linguistics is essential for us to maintain and grow our programs and would strengthen the contributions made by Linguistics to the research and teaching missions of the university.

Fig. 4. Organization and Degree Programs at Peer and Aspirant Comparator Institutions

	Program	Department	minor	BA	MA	PhD
UGA	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
IA State	✓		✓	✓		
LSU	✓		✓			
MI State		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NC State*	✓		✓		(✓)	(✓)
OSU		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U of AZ		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UC Davis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U of FL		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U of IA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U of KY		✓	✓	✓	✓	
U of MD		✓	✓	✓		✓
U of MO	✓		✓	✓		
Cornell		✓	✓	✓		✓
Penn State**		✓	✓	✓		✓
UC Berkeley		✓	✓	✓		✓
UCLA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UIUC		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U of MI		✓	✓	✓		✓
U of MN***		(✓)	✓	✓	✓	✓
UT Austin		✓		✓	✓	✓
UVA	✓		✓	✓	✓	
UW		✓	✓	✓		✓
U of WI-Madison		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\*NC State offers a Master's Degree in English or Spanish with a concentration in Linguistics, and a Ph.D. in Sociology with a concentration in Sociolinguistics

\*\*Penn State has a Department of Applied Linguistics, which offers an undergraduate minor and an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language as well as a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics. It also has an interdisciplinary program that offers an undergraduate minor and major plus a dual-title doctoral degree program in conjunction with the Ph.D. programs in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, the Department of Psychology, and the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

\*\*\*Linguistics at the University of Minnesota is officially an "Institute," which in this case seems to be somewhere between program and departmental status. According to their website, there are seven faculty members and two administrative staff members housed in the Institute, plus a substantial number of affiliated faculty with homes in other departments.

### 3. The academic mission of the existing Program in Linguistics

The Linguistics Program offers coursework leading to the A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in Linguistics. The graduate program began in 1970, while the undergraduate major has been in

place since 1987-88. There are approximately 60 undergraduate-level and 50 graduate-level LING courses, many of which are cross-listed with other departments. In AY 2015-16, 1349 students took our introductory linguistics course, LING 2100/2100H/2100E *The Study of Language*, which serves as a prerequisite to upper-division LING courses and satisfies several Core and Franklin College requirements; it is also part of the Core Area VI requirements for a number of majors. LING courses at the 3000/4000-level enroll over 400 students per year. As a result, Linguistics contributes significantly to the core educational mission of the university.

The tenured and tenure-track faculty of the Linguistics Program are very productive in research and well known in their respective subfields. They publish widely in prestigious journals and, in addition to numerous book chapters, they have authored a total of 35 books (excluding textbooks) and edited over 25 volumes. From 2010-present Linguistics faculty members have been PIs or Co-PIs on grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Department of Education, the Eurasia Foundation, the China Social Science Fund, and the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico totaling over \$2.4M. They have also been very successful in securing internal funding for their individual research and for collaborative projects (from the Provost's Office, OVPR, CTL, the Willson Center, and other sources).

Within the university, Linguistics faculty currently support a variety of research and teaching collaborations with the Institute for Artificial Intelligence, the Cognitive Science major, and Digital Humanities. Two courses (LING 6021 and LING 8150) are currently part of the Master's in AI, and several LING courses satisfy Cognitive Science requirements. Linguistics faculty collaborate with other AI faculty and graduate students on projects related to Big Data analyses of speech, natural language processing, and other topics. Collaborations with AI are explicitly geared toward real-world applications of technology, a growth area for student interest and external funding. The capacity for collaboration and research will increase with the creation of a Linguistics Department and the administrative support that accompanies it.

Linguistics also regularly organizes and hosts events that promote the research mission of the university and bring linguistics to the attention of a wider audience. Since fall 2014 the Linguistics Society at UGA has held an annual conference, which attracts participants from across the U.S. and abroad; the 2016 conference had 35 speakers from universities in Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi, Indiana, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, Germany, and Nigeria. We have sponsored or co-sponsored other established national and international conferences, such as the Annual Conference on African Linguistics (2008), the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (2011), Portuguese Linguistics in the United States (2013), the East Coast Indo-European Conference (which is an international conference, despite its name; 2008, 2016), and the 7th Workshop on Immigrant Languages in the Americas (2016). In addition, in the spring of 2009 The University of Oslo sponsored an International Workshop on Indo-European Syntax and Pragmatics at UGA as part of an ongoing collaboration between Professor Jared Klein and the Oslo research team on a project titled "Pragmatic Resources in Old Indo-European Languages" (PROIEL). In recent years Linguistics has also hosted or co-hosted a number of visiting scholars from other universities: Dr. Anita Peti-Stantić (University of Zagreb, Franklin International Scholars Program, 2010), Dr. Sudarat Leerabandh (Fulbright Scholar, 2010), Dr. Ranko Matasović (University of

Zagreb, Franklin International Scholars Program, 2011), Dr. Gabriele Diewald (University of Hannover, Franklin International Faculty Exchange, 2013; Franklin International Scholars Program, 2014; Max Kade Visiting Professor, 2015); Judith Tonhauser (The Ohio State University, for a workshop on semantic fieldwork, 2015); Fábio Bonfim Duarte (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, for a workshop on syntactic fieldwork, 2016).

#### 4. Goals of establishing a Department of Linguistics

The needs of the current Linguistics faculty and students are not well served by the amorphous structure of a program. Both research and teaching will improve with the greater academic focus and organizational gravity of a department. Departmental status will also, we expect, enable us to secure resources commensurate with our large student body, which outnumbers that of the other non-departmental degree-granting units in Franklin College, as well as some departments. Concretely, we believe that the establishment of a department will help us achieve the following goals:

##### a. Stabilizing and strengthening our undergraduate and graduate degree programs

As an established discipline, linguistics has a sizable and stable core curriculum, one that has deepened significantly over the past fifty years of rapid development in the field. We need to ensure that all students know what that curriculum is and know that it will be provided to them. Here departmental status will be an advantage in at least two ways. It will allow us to define a core group of faculty with all or part of their EFT in Linguistics so that it will be clear to our students exactly who is responsible for them, and to whom they are responsible. Secondly, it will make it easier for us to offer necessary core courses on a reliable basis at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, together with more specialized courses that our advanced graduate students need. In recent years this has been increasingly difficult to achieve because of steadily rising enrollments and faculty positions that have been left vacant; this situation is compounded by the fact that linguistics has little control over the teaching schedules of most current tenured/tenure-track faculty members, all of whom are housed in other departments.

Building a stronger undergraduate program would allow us to send a larger number of well-educated undergraduates on to leading graduate programs elsewhere, which is one of the quickest ways to raise the status of UGA in the field of linguistics. Strengthening the graduate curriculum will allow us to attract more highly qualified students and provide them with an enhanced level of training, in accord with the strategic initiative by Provost Whitten to elevate graduate education at UGA. Improvement at both levels will be beneficial for the students and the department itself.

##### b. Recruitment and retention of faculty

As a program with a poorly defined status and a low profile within the administrative structure of the university, Linguistics has been at a great disadvantage in the recruitment and retention of faculty. In recent years we lost three key members of the program in short succession to well-established departments at other universities, each of which offered a cohesive group of colleagues with whom to collaborate and resources that are unavailable here. New hires have

become increasingly difficult, since faculty must be officially housed in another department, which serves as the official promotion and tenure unit. Understandably, these other departments do not necessarily see such an arrangement as being in their best interests, and this has vastly complicated the hiring process. Under current conditions, in which Linguistics faculty are housed in other departments, our contributions to research and teaching are in most cases evaluated by department heads and colleagues who have no connection with the discipline, which can lead to problems. The establishment of a department will signal a greater commitment to Linguistics on the part of the university and will provide a more stable working environment, both of which will make it easier to recruit and retain the best faculty.

c. Fostering research and a stronger sense of academic community

The centralization afforded by departmental status, along with its higher prestige in the university, will enhance the feeling of shared focus and community among faculty and students and create a more conducive environment for productive research collaboration. Our current premises in Gilbert Hall (only about 1150 square feet) provide space for only an administrative office, one faculty office (shared with a staff advisor), another larger space separated by a movable divider into a small seminar room and a tiny lounge area, plus a cramped computer lab for graduate students. Faculty who are currently scattered across campus have little opportunity for interaction with one another, and our graduate teaching assistants have no space to prepare for their courses and to meet with students. The allocation of suitable space for an academic program of our size, with offices for administrative staff, core faculty, and teaching assistants, together with some classroom and lab space, is necessary to support our academic mission and was strongly recommended in both the 2008 and 2016 program reviews.

## 5. Resource implications

a. Faculty

The Linguistics Program currently has 31 affiliated faculty members housed in various departments in Franklin College and the College of Education. Of these, two tenure-stream faculty currently have all of their budgeted instructional time in Linguistics and one has a joint appointment split evenly between Linguistics and Romance Languages. In addition, we have two non-tenure-track full-time faculty positions in Linguistics and a full professor who was hired originally for Linguistics (when this was part of the Anthropology Department) and who has always taught full-time for the Linguistics Program, although all of his EFT is in Classics.

We have reached amicable agreements with the Departments of Classics, Comparative Literature, English, Germanic & Slavic Studies, and Romance Languages to transfer all or part of the EFT for these faculty members (as applicable) to a new Department of Linguistics, as well as to create new joint appointments for a number of additional faculty members. The remaining faculty will continue to teach LING or cross-listed LING courses under existing arrangements, with adjunct faculty status.

These arrangements will allow us to continue to cover the core courses in most subfields and will represent a net increase in teaching units dedicated fully to Linguistics. However, like



many other academic units at the university, Linguistics has been adversely affected over the years by the inability to replace faculty members after they retired or left UGA for positions elsewhere. It has been particularly difficult to secure replacements in our case since these faculty members were typically budgeted entirely in other units, even though they were regularly assigned to teach courses in Linguistics. As recommended in the most recent program review, we are in urgent need of several additional hires in specializations that are currently under-represented or not represented at all.

Proposed formal arrangements for existing faculty

Core faculty

*Full appointments in Linguistics (.75 EFT/100% of budgeted time)*

Dr. Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Associate Professor  
 Dr. Margaret Renwick, Assistant Professor  
 Dr. Mi-Ran Kim, Senior Lecturer  
 Dr. Mark Wenthe, Instructor

*Joint appointment (.50 EFT/66% of budgeted time in Linguistics)*

Dr. Jared Klein, Distinguished Research Professor (Linguistics/Classics)

*Joint appointments (.375 EFT/50% of budgeted time in Linguistics)*

Dr. Pilar Chamorro, Assistant Professor (Linguistics/Romance Languages)  
 Dr. Jonathan Evans, Associate Professor (Linguistics/English)  
 Dr. Chad Howe, Associate Professor (Linguistics/Romance Languages)  
 Dr. Keith Langston, Professor (Linguistics/Germanic & Slavic Studies)  
 Dr. Lioba Moshi, Professor (Linguistics/Comparative Literature)

*Joint appointments (.25 EFT/33% of budgeted time in Linguistics)*

Dr. Sarah Blackwell, Associate Professor (Romance Languages/Linguistics)  
 Dr. Joshua Bousquette, Assistant Professor (Germanic & Slavic/Linguistics)  
 Dr. Akinloye Ojo, Associate Professor (Comp. Literature/African Studies/Linguistics)  
 Dr. Margaret Quesada, Professor (Romance Languages/Linguistics)

Adjunct faculty

Dr. Adel Amer (Lecturer, Religion)  
 Dr. Gary Baker (Academic Professional, Romance Languages)  
 Dr. Liang Chen (Associate Professor, Communication Sciences & Disorders)  
 Dr. Kelly Farmer Ford (Academic Professional, Romance Languages)  
 Dr. Richard Friedman (Professor, Religion)  
 Dr. Timothy Gupton (Associate Professor, Romance Languages)  
 Dr. Baruch Halpern (Professor, Religion)  
 Dr. Linda Harklau (Professor, Language and Literacy Education)  
 Dr. Ruth Harman (Associate Professor, Language and Literacy Education)  
 Dr. Victoria Hasko (Associate Professor, Language and Literacy Education)

Dr. Kenneth Honerkamp (Professor, Religion)  
Dr. Paula Mellom (Academic Professional, Center for Latino Achievement and Success)  
Dr. Teresa Pérez-Gamboa (Academic Professional, Romance Languages)  
Dr. Diana Ranson (Associate Professor, Romance Languages)  
Dr. Alexander Sager (Associate Professor, Germanic & Slavic Studies)  
Dr. Paula Schwanenflugel (Professor, Educational Psychology & Instructional Tech.)  
Dr. Olga Thomason (Lecturer, Germanic & Slavic Studies)

For all new joint appointments, a memorandum of understanding will be concluded between the current home department and Linguistics, as specified in the Academic Affairs Policy Manual, section 1.04-6. This agreement should outline the faculty member's expected duties and responsibilities in both units; procedures to be followed for annual evaluations, promotion, tenure, and post-tenure review; and administrative support to be provided by each unit. Per OVPR guidelines, F&A indirect cost reimbursements for external grant funding will be distributed to the faculty member's home unit(s) as specified on the grant proposal transmittal form.

All other current faculty members of the Linguistics Program will be granted adjunct faculty status in the new Department of Linguistics. New adjunct faculty may be elected to membership as specified in the departmental bylaws, and all adjunct faculty members will be subject to renewal every three years, in accordance with the bylaws.

Adjunct faculty will continue to participate in the undergraduate and graduate programs in the same ways as they currently do, teaching courses (cross-listed, in most cases), serving on graduate committees, and directing graduate student work. They may also serve on departmental committees, attend faculty meetings and participate in discussions, and participate in advisory votes, as specified in the department bylaws. The intent is to allow all current faculty members in the Linguistics Program to participate as fully as possible in the life of the new department.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Note that this is similar to the arrangement in place at the University of Florida, for example, where Linguistics was elevated from program to departmental status in 2010; there are a substantial number of joint appointments, some pre-existing and others arranged at the time the department was created. Affiliated faculty budgeted solely in other departments continue to participate in the academic programs just as they did before and even retain voting rights on many matters in the Department of Linguistics. Even well-established Departments of Linguistics at other universities frequently have a substantial number of courtesy appointments for faculty housed in other departments, due to the intersection of Linguistics with many other disciplines, so the faculty structure proposed here is not anomalous in this respect. Over time, with the possibility of additional appointments in the new department, the ratio of adjunct to core faculty should gradually shift in favor of the latter.

#### b. Staff

Linguistics currently has one full-time staff member, at the rank of Administrative Specialist I. The additional workload associated with departmental status (with full or partial responsibility for a number of faculty who are at present supported administratively in other departments, in addition to providing support for our large student body) will necessitate the hiring of a second half- or full-time staff member.

#### c. Operating budget

Like other degree-granting units within Franklin College, the Linguistics Program receives an operating budget from the college, and it is expected that this funding would continue after the transition to a department. However, the current budget for the program is only \$6950, so this would need to be increased to an amount that is more appropriate for a unit of our size.

#### d. Facilities

The existing facilities are woefully inadequate for our current program, as has been recognized by the members of two successive program review committees (see above for details). The creation of a department will definitely require additional space, which is not available in Gilbert Hall.

As a discipline, linguistics has become increasingly oriented towards experimental methods, and students and faculty need laboratories and equipment to support their research. Some equipment for recording, phonetics research, and perceptual studies was acquired in cooperation with the now-defunct Language Resource Center, through Student Tech Fee funding, or by former faculty members as part of their research start-up packages. This equipment is housed in part of the former LRC premises on the ground floor of Gilbert (in an area now controlled by Franklin OIT).

Ideally, Linguistics should be housed in a single building with room for the following:

- offices for the administrative staff and head
- copy/work room and storage space
- individual offices for six core Linguistics faculty members
- additional offices for prospective hires
- a shared office for other faculty to use for student meetings, class preparation, etc.
- a seminar/meeting room
- one or two dedicated classrooms
- a research laboratory
- teaching assistant offices plus a small computer lab for graduate students

Associated expenses for moving, remodeling, furniture, and office equipment would be dependent on the identification of an appropriate space, so they cannot be accurately estimated here. If separate lab space is assigned, some existing laboratory equipment could be relocated

from Gilbert, while other equipment could be obtained through student tech fee requests and grant funding.

6. Related units to be informed of the proposal

Franklin College

Department of Classics

Department of Comparative Literature

Department of English

Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies

Department of Religion

Department of Romance Languages

College of Education

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Department of Educational Psychology and Instructional Technology

Department of Language and Literacy Education

7. Supporting documents (attached)

Letters of support from affected units

Letter of support from the Linguistic Society of America

Letter of support from the Linguistics Society at UGA (representing graduate and undergraduate students)

Brief biographies of core faculty members



Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
*Office of the Dean*

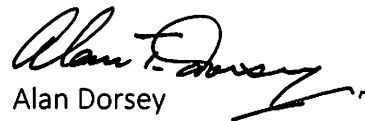
Franklin College  
Supplemental Statement on Funding

In connection with the conversion of Linguistics from a program to a department at the University of Georgia, the Franklin College is prepared to provide funding for additional staffing needs, an increase in the unit's operating budget, and the relocation of faculty to new offices.

Please note that the proposal does not make contiguous space a condition of Linguistics' conversion into a department, since all faculty already have offices on campus; we do, however, recognize the need for such space as well as the unit's desire for additional instructional and laboratory space and are currently considering/discussing relocation of the core faculty to Brooks or Sanford Hall, once these buildings have been vacated. The College is aware that Provost Whitten will have to approve any such space allocation.

With regard to additional faculty lines mentioned in the proposal, the College will consider these annually along with requests from other units. Similar to the questions related to space, these are extant requests that require no "new" commitments, since the unit already exists and would ask for additional lines and additional space regardless of the change in status.

Sincerely,



Alan Dorsey  
Dean



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Linguistics Program  
142 Gilbert Hall  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
TEL 706-542-2448  
langston@uga.edu  
linguistics.uga.edu

January 23, 2017

Dean Alan Dorsey  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
Old College  
CAMPUS

Dear Dean Dorsey:

I am transmitting to you our proposal for the creation of a new Department of Linguistics. This proposal has been endorsed by a unanimous vote of the Linguistics Program faculty (31-0 in favor), as well as by the heads of the other units that would be affected by the requested transfers of faculty EFT.

Sincerely,

Keith Langston  
Professor of Slavic Studies and Linguistics  
Director, Linguistics Program



**UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA**

Old College  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
TEL 706-542-3400  
www.franklin.uga.edu

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
*Office of the Dean*

January 30, 2017

Dean Suzanne Barbour  
The Graduate School  
Terrell Hall  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dean Barbour,

With this letter, I am transmitting for your review the proposal for the creation of a new Department of Linguistics at the University of Georgia.

Although Linguistics grants undergraduate and graduate degrees, it is currently classified as a program not a department, a fact that poses a number of challenges ranging from faculty appointments to course scheduling to graduate student recruitment and effective student mentoring.

A reconfiguration of the program as department would address or alleviate many of the issues facing Linguistics and also eliminate an anomaly in the Franklin College, a fully functional program without sound departmental structure.

For this and other reasons, the Franklin College supports the conversion of Linguistics from program to department and endorses the enclosed proposal.

Academic Affairs Policy 2.01-18 Reorganization of Academic units outlines the relevant approval routing as follows:

After approval by the dean of the school or college, the proposal shall be submitted to the Graduate School for consideration if the unit offers graduate programs or includes graduate faculty. After approval by the Dean of the Graduate School, if applicable, the proposal shall be submitted to the Provost for consideration and approval.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alan Dorsey, Dean

Cc: Dr. Martin Kagel, Associate Dean, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

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February 13, 2017

Dr. Pamela Whitten  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Provost Whitten,

I provide this letter in support of the request to create a Department of Linguistics in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. At present, Linguistics is an interdisciplinary program that serves students in 9 departments that are spread across two Colleges (the Franklin College and the College of Education). As with many interdisciplinary programs at our institution, the success of Linguistics is hampered by systematic administrative issues that will be obviated if the program is converted to a department. The discipline is growing nationally, with a 47% increase in doctoral degrees awarded between 2008 and 2014. Over the past five years, graduate enrollments and degree production have been static in our masters and doctoral programs, likely due to some of the hurdles (faculty hires, course coverage) enumerated in the proposal.

In my opinion, Linguistics has potential to be among the strongest of our humanities graduate programs. There is growing interest in language patterns in southern Appalachia, and we are uniquely positioned to study this. The discipline has a natural connection to the digital humanities, a growing strength of our institution and there are existing ties between Linguistics and the digital humanities at UGA. The connection to digital humanities also offers the opportunity to provide humanities graduate students with technical skills that will allow them to pursue careers outside of academia.

In short, we are poised to offer cutting edge training in an interdisciplinary discipline, but currently lack the administrative structure necessary to ensure success of the program. Although additional resources (space, administrative staff) will be needed to launch a department of Linguistics, I believe this is a sound investment.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Barbour  
Dean, the Graduate School





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# The University of Georgia

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Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
*Department of English*

Jan. 18, 2017

Dear Dean Dorsey,

I am writing in support of the Proposal for the Establishment of a Department in Linguistics, an initiative that is long overdue. The proposal circulated by Dr. Keith Langston—with its resounding endorsement by more than two dozen faculty members likely to be affected—is thoughtfully conceived. It promises to establish Linguistics on a secure footing within the Franklin College. At the same time, it will alleviate the unhelpful distribution of its faculty across numerous other departments, clarifying their pedagogic and research mission in the process.

When I came to UGA in 2001, the Department of English had a robust number of faculty members whose primary research and teaching was in Linguistics. That number has so precipitously declined over the years that Linguistics seems at odds with the mission of the department: we now offer, for example, no more than two or three courses in that area annually, a decline from a high of more than thirty. As I discussed with you last year, we realize that the resources are simply not there for restoring to English the faculty complement in language-specific research and instruction it once had. A far more meaningful initiative, as I observed at the time, would be the creation of a Department of Linguistics, and that's precisely what's now on the table. Furthermore, the participation of those faculty members in English wishing to continue their affiliate status with Linguistics would clarify their status in both departments.

Please accept my wholehearted support for this timely and judiciously prepared proposal for the establishment of a Department of Linguistics.

Yours truly,

Jed Rasula

Helen S. Lanier Distinguished Professor and Department Head



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# The University of Georgia

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227 Park Hall • Athens, Georgia 30602-6203 • (706) 542-9260 • FAX (706) 542-8503 • e-mail: [cplatter@uga.edu](mailto:cplatter@uga.edu)

**Charles Platter, Professor and Head of Classics**

January 19, 2017

Dean Alan Dorsey  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
New College  
CAMPUS

Dear Dean Dorsey:

The Department of Classics endorses the creation of a Department of Linguistics. To support that effort we approve the transfer of .50 of Jared Klein's EFT to the new department. The resulting distribution for Professor Klein is:

Department of Linguistics .50  
Department of Classics .167.

Sincerely,

Charles Platter



# The University of Georgia

*Department of Romance Languages*

January 20, 2017

Alan T. Dorsey  
Dean, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
Old College  
Campus

Dear Dean Dorsey,

The Department of Romance Languages endorses the creation of a Department of Linguistics. In support of this action, I approve the partial transfer of EFT to the new Department of Linguistics for three of our faculty:

1. Professor Lewis (Chad) Howe, Associate Professor of Hispanic Linguistics: .375 EFT
2. Professor Sarah Blackwell, Associate Professor of Hispanic Linguistics: .250 EFT
3. Professor Margaret Quesada, Professor of Hispanic Linguistics and Associate Head: .250 EFT

Sincerely,

Stacey D. Casado  
Professor of Spanish and Head



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# The University of Georgia

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**Franklin College of Arts and Sciences**  
*Comparative Literature Department*

January 20, 2017

Dr. Alan Dorsey, Dean  
Franklin College of Arts & Sciences  
300 Old College  
UGA Campus

Dear Alan:

The Department of Comparative Literature endorses the creation of a Department of Linguistics. In that light, we will approve the transfer of EFT to the new Department of Linguistics for two of our faculty:

Lioba Moshi 0.5 EFT  
Akinloye Ojo 0.25 EFT

These two faculty members have had discussions with Linguistics and have agreed on this transfer. Currently the two faculty members teach courses that are cross-listed with Linguistics and have for years participated in scholarly activities afforded by the Linguistics program.

Sincerely,

Lioba Moshi  
Department Head and University Professor  
University Professor & Department Head



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Joe Brown Hall Room 201  
595 S. Lumpkin St.  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
TEL 706-542-3663 FAX 706-583-0349  
german@uga.edu  
www.gsstudies.uga.edu

Franklin College of Arts & Sciences  
*Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies*

January 12, 2017

Dear Dean Dorsey,

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies endorses the creation of a Department of Linguistics. In that light, we will approve the transfer to the new Department of Linguistics of EFT for three of our faculty:

- 1) Vera Lee-Schoenfeld (the small amount of her EFT currently held by us);
- 2) Keith Langston (.375 EFT, evenly divided between teaching and research);
- 3) Joshua Bousquette (.25 EFT, entirely from research).

Thank you and best regards,

Alexander Sager  
Associate Professor of German and Head



Archibald A. Hill Suite, 1325 18th Street, NW, #211  
 Washington, DC 20036-6501  
 Tel: 202 835-1714; Fax 202 835-1717  
 Email: [lsa@lsadc.org](mailto:lsa@lsadc.org); Web: [www.linguisticsociety.org](http://www.linguisticsociety.org)

Linguistic Society of America

Dean Alan Dorsey  
 University of Georgia  
 Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
 Old College  
 Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dean Dorsey:

As Secretary-Treasurer of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) and chair of the Advisory to Programs Committee, I am writing to you on behalf of the LSA in support of the proposal to establish a Department of Linguistics at the University of Georgia. The LSA is the largest linguistics society in the world, with some 5,000 members and institutional subscribers, and is the only umbrella academic society for the discipline as a whole in the United States. As such, the state of the discipline and the well-being of linguistics departments and programs throughout the country are among its top concerns.

The discipline of linguistics has seen a steady trend of growth in Ph.D. degrees awarded in the past couple of decades or so and, more interestingly, a much stronger trend of growth for undergraduate majors, as indicated in Figure 1 below, from the [LSA's 2015 report](#) on the "State of Linguistics in Higher Education."

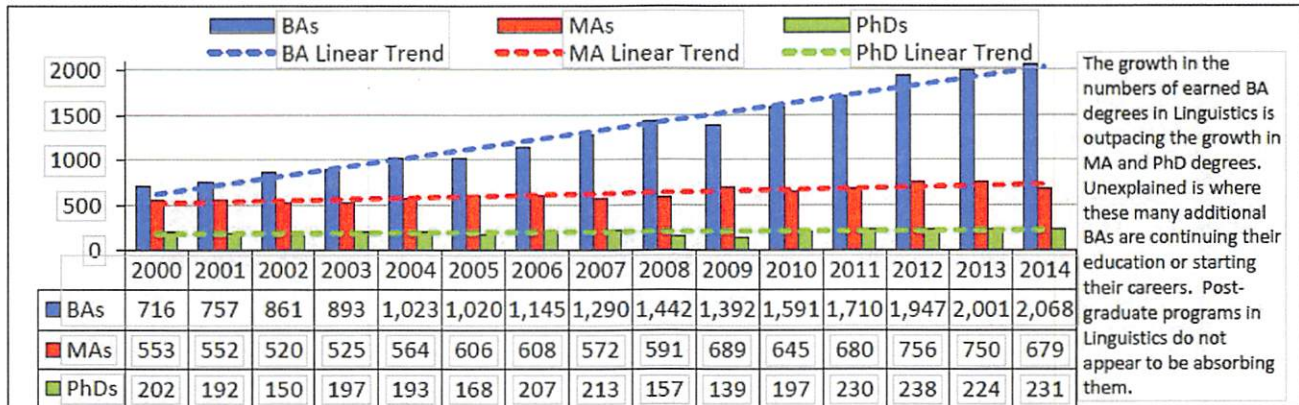


Figure 1. Trends in linguistics degrees awarded 2000–2014

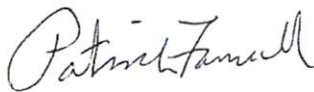
Leaving aside military academies and institutes of technology, which typically have few if any graduate programs in the humanities or social sciences, among the top 25 public universities in the [2016 Forbes ranking](#), only the University of Georgia and the College of William and Mary do not have a Department of Linguistics and only the latter does not have a Ph.D. program in linguistics. Thus, it is somewhat of an anomaly that the flagship



public university of Georgia does not currently have such a department, unlike institutions of comparable size and stature in California, Michigan, Virginia, Texas, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Florida, Maryland, Colorado, Minnesota, Indiana, and Illinois.

On the other hand, it seems clear that, much like in the case of Linguistics at my own institution, the University of California, Davis, which is at #25 on the Forbes list and which transitioned from a program to a department in 1999, interdisciplinary ties with other departments and programs have made it such that many of the contributing linguists on campus have their primary appointments elsewhere. While this may make Linguistics seem small for a department, the faculty members in your program have crafted a plan for transitioning to department status that is sensitive to the implications of faculty size and is both academically and fiscally responsible. For these reasons, this proposal merits the enthusiastic support of the LSA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Farrell".

Patrick Farrell  
Secretary-Treasurer of the LSA  
[pmfarrell@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pmfarrell@ucdavis.edu)



1785

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# The University of Georgia

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Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
*Linguistics Program*

Lisa Lipani  
Linguistics Society at UGA  
142 Gilbert Hall  
Athens, Georgia 30602

January 23, 2017

Dean Alan Dorsey  
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences  
Old College  
University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Dean Dorsey,

My name is Lisa Lipani, and I am the president of The Linguistics Society at UGA (hereafter LSUGA), a student organization consisting primarily of linguistics graduate students. I am writing to you on behalf of LSUGA to express our desire that the Linguistics Program be converted to a full department.

Even without the benefits that full departments enjoy, we have been quite successful in expanding our program at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This success is evident in the fact that the numerous sections of our introductory linguistics course, LING 2100, which is taught almost exclusively by graduate students, consistently reaches maximum enrollment and has many students on waiting lists. Furthermore, our graduate students and faculty are active members of the larger research community. This academic year alone, they have been a part of securing a major NSF grant (#1625680; \$377,295) and have presented at prestigious national conferences such as the meetings of the Linguistics Society of America, the American Dialect Society, and the Modern Language Association. Furthermore, LSUGA has hosted an academic conference for three consecutive years, each year building on its attendance in raw numbers and its ability to bring in students and faculty from around the U.S., and in some cases around the world.

While we are very proud of the academic accomplishments detailed above, becoming a department would serve to fill many of the existing gaps in the program. One major drawback to our program is our inability to fully support graduate students from their first year. Although our students are resourceful and often successful in finding alternative funding, we lose talented potential students each year to our peer institutions. Furthermore, as students advance through the program, their funding status becomes



more precarious, as the program has often been unable to fund students after their fourth (or in the past, even third) year. This leaves our students to again search for external funding and potentially detracts from overall research goals, and some students may even need to leave the university for outside employment before completing their degree. Additionally, our course offerings are often limited, and do not fully meet students' needs, and relatedly, the limited linguistics faculty we have advise a tremendous amount of students. Being able to independently hire new faculty to teach new and existing courses would allow students to advance towards their degrees more efficiently and productively.

Despite being larger than many departments on campus, our space does not reflect our size. We are housed in one small basement area in Gilbert Hall which is not even sufficient for basic purposes such as comfortably accommodating attendees to faculty meetings, let alone serving as office space for all LING 2100 instructors. Our linguistics conference room, which only seats 10 people, is the sole meeting space in Gilbert Hall for these faculty meetings or for instructors to hold office hours. Furthermore, we have only one administrative specialist, whereas a department of our size would have the benefit of both an administrative specialist and a business manager. The designation of a larger space would obviously allow us to meet our potential and better serve our graduate and undergraduate students alike while the hiring of a business manager would permit these innumerable responsibilities of our current administrative specialist to be streamlined and better distributed.

The issues and concerns listed in the previous paragraphs are just a few of the many ways in which we believe the Linguistics Program would be strengthened if granted departmental status. At our current pace, we will continue to grow both in terms of number of students and in our production of research. As our brand and network expands, we expect to attract more outstanding potential students to our program. To compete with our peer institutions and secure these students' commitment to UGA, we must offer them the assurance and security afforded by a full department. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Lipani".

Lisa Lipani  
President  
The Linguistics Society at UGA

## Approvals on File

**Proposal:** Create a New Department of Linguistics

**Department:** Linguistics

**College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Proposed Effective Term:** Semester After Approval

Program:

- Director of the Linguistics Program, Dr. Keith Langston, 1/23/2017

School/College:

- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Dean, Dr. Alan Dorsey, 1/30/2017

Graduate School:

- Graduate School Dean, Dr. Suzanne Barbour, 2/13/2017

Additional Support:

- Classics Department Head, Dr. Charles Platter, 1/19/2017
- Comparative Literature Department Head, Dr. Lioba Moshi, 1/20/2017
- English Department Head, Dr. Jed Rasula, 1/18/2017
- Germanic and Slavic Studies Department Head, Dr. Alexander Sager, 1/12/2017
- Romance Languages Department Head, Dr. Stacey Casado, 1/20/2017
- Linguistic Society of America
- The Linguistics Society of UGA, 1/23/17