Memorandum

To: Members of the COH Curriculum Review Committee
   Dean Chuck Tatum
   Vice Dean Judy Nantell

From: Mary E. Wildner-Bassett, Head
       Department of German Studies

Date: November 14, 2005

Re: REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORIZATION FOR NEW ACADEMIC
    DEGREE PROGRAM [UNIQUE PROGRAM]: Arizona-Leipzig Joint Ph.D.
    Program in Transcultural German Studies CIP Code: 05.0125

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I extend the attached packet to you with the documentation for our request for implementation for authorization for the new Arizona-Leipzig Joint Ph.D. Program in Transcultural German Studies. We received Planning authority for the program on February 7, 2005, and we have been working since then to develop the documents that you find here.

The process to establish the relationships necessary for planning this Ph.D. program began in 2003, but our connections to the University of Leipzig began much earlier. Our relationships with the University of Leipzig Faculty of Philology, Department of German (Studies), and with the Herder-Institute, a renowned institute in the University of Leipzig that specializes in German as a Foreign and Second Language, have grown in depth and breadth since our initial contacts. We have firmly established relationships with our colleagues in Leipzig, as well as with administrators there who are enthusiastically supportive of the Joint Ph.D. Program. This is a truly unique program in every way, and the result of international and internal collaboration from conception to the very details of the program. A joint Ph.D. program conceived and implemented by a University founded in 1409 and ours, founded in 1885, is a symbolic bridge across time, space, and point of view, which we summarize in the name “transcultural.” In my travels as Department Head, I have mentioned our planned program to several of my department head/chair colleagues. They are all extremely interested in our program, and I have already been approached by Heads at both Vanderbilt and USCSB, for example, to request that our program be made available to them as a model for programs they hope to develop. Both assured me that we are “light years” ahead of them in terms of development and planning for a program of this kind.

Our faculty here at the University of Arizona has worked in great unity and with an excellent and collaborative spirit to complete this request for permission to implement. We have also worked in unity and collaboration with our counterparts in Leipzig, especially in the summer of 2005, when four members of our faculty were in Leipzig for several meetings and very concrete discussions and planning for the joint program. You see the results of all of this here in our packet requesting implementation authorization.
We have been asked to supply some key ideas to assist with the understanding of what Transcultural German Studies in the Arizona-Leipzig Model entails. As an inherently interdisciplinary field, German Studies has focused largely on the cultures and languages of German-speaking countries. Transcultural German Studies remains committed to interdisciplinarity, and it is essentially comparative, contrastive, and critical in nature. This new field of inquiry investigates and seeks to foster understanding of the complex nature of the interrelationships of language, literature, and culture in global communities where German is spoken. It is constituted in a crucial way by a transcultural perspective. The vantage point of scholars at a U.S. university studying the cultures of the German-speaking world is a key component of the discipline. A transcultural perspective is an integral part of our teaching and scholarship; for the candidates in our program, it will be made very concrete in the requirement that they spend a year of study at the University of Leipzig. Another unique aspect of the program is the true integration of the fields of language, literature, culture, and their pedagogies.

The study of transcultural issues both cultivates and arises from tolerance and mutual respect for individuals, cultures, and peoples worldwide through the creation of a cross-cultural academic community and networks of communication that include but also go beyond national borders. The Transcultural German Studies program will create new opportunities for intra- and intercampus collaboration and support. The course of study for Ph.D. students will open up new channels for dialogue and generate new forms of scholarship and interdisciplinary collaboration in American, German, and international contexts.

The Joint International Ph.D. program has the following unique advantages:
- It combines the strengths of two major research universities and teaching traditions (Arizona and Leipzig);
- It emphasizes the sharing of resources. In Tucson, students will receive either a Graduate Assistantship in Teaching (GAT) or a fellowship (e.g. Max Kade). In Leipzig, students will assist professors as research assistants;
- It combines scholarship and theory with pedagogical and curriculum development practice by providing guided and supervised opportunities for course development for all Ph.D. students;
- The preparation we offer will enable our students to find employment not only in the United States but also abroad.

Doctoral students in the program aspire to careers relating to national and international educational, cultural, and linguistic interests in Germany/Austria/Switzerland, the United States, and in a variety of countries and communities in which German is spoken and written. As a discipline, Transcultural German Studies has as its object of study cultural practices, products, and perspectives. The program of study encourages interaction between individuals and peoples with diverse cultural experiences, as well as frequent engagement between professionals and colleagues with diverse interests. With the current and future emphasis on global communities, prospects for the employment of graduates of the program are excellent. Given their education in our program—to our knowledge, the first of its kind—graduates will have the abilities and experiences to contribute to the growth of the field of German Studies and to take advantage of employment and scholarship opportunities both here and abroad that continue to expand based on the economic, cultural, and political centrality of the German-speaking countries.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this endeavor.