

January 29, 2011

To: Jerry Baldasty
Dean, Graduate School

From: Albert Sbragia
Chair, French and Italian Studies

Re: 5-year FIS review interim report

Per request of the Graduate School the Division of French and Italian Studies submits the following 5-year interim report subsequent to the unit's 10-year review in 2006. This report will address in order the six topics requested by the Graduate School to be followed by some general comments:

1) development and implementation of a faculty mentoring plan—FIS has been extremely successful in developing and promoting its junior faculty since 2006. Of the three junior faculty in the unit since the time of the review, two were promoted from Assistant to Associate level with tenure in 2009-2010: Geoffrey Turnovsky and Louisa Mackenzie. These were the unit's first promotions from Assistant to Associate with tenure since 1997. The third faculty member, Susan Gaylard, is similarly very well poised for promotion in 2012-2013 with two prestigious presses, Fordham and Toronto, having expressed interest in reviewing her book manuscript upon completion over the next few months. Tenure committees for both Professors Turnovsky and Mackenzie were chaired by and included senior colleagues from outside the department able to provide excellent guidance and support: Professor Raymond Jonas (History), chair, for Turnovksy; Professors Marshall Brown (Comparative Literature, chair), and Stephen Hinds (Classics), for Mackenzie. Professor Gaylard currently has a tenure and book manuscript mentoring team consisting of Albert Sbragia (FIS), Donald Gilbert-Santamaria (Spanish and Portuguese) and Stuart Lingo (Art History). Members of the Early Modern Research Group (EMERGE) have also been actively involved in reading manuscript chapters and offering advice. If Gaylard is promoted as expected, FIS will have promoted all of its junior faculty in the unit. The hire in 2008 of Associate Professor Richard Watts, a dynamic scholar in Francophone Studies, has provided junior faculty with an excellent model and informal mentor for their own professional development.

2) development and implementation of a student mentoring plan—At the graduate student level one of the major innovations has been to increase the involvement of the Graduate Program Coordinator in French in mentoring students through their studies and exams. Professor Geoffrey Turnovsky has worked admirably at this and serves as an active and informed mentor for all of our French graduate students who also receive mentoring from the rest of the faculty. Our departmental website has been updated and now provides a thorough description and list of procedures for graduate student appointments, Masters degree and Masters examinations, Ph.D. examinations, dissertation work, and teaching assistant appointments. Our departmental adviser Sabrina Tatta works closely with Turnovsky and the Chair in identifying, nominating and encouraging students to apply for fellowships and grants. This effort has been very successful and over the past three years French graduate students have received one prestigious Alvord Fellowship (Jessica Kamin), two Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships (James Terry 2009, Otilia Baraboi, 2008), one FLAS Fellowship (Julia Holter 2008-09), and two Tournées Film Festival Grants offered by the French government (Joel Strom, 2008 and 2009). We have been consistently successful in obtaining Top Scholar awards from the Graduate School and this year received an additional quarter of Top Scholar support. The addition of faculty member Richard Watts in Francophone Studies has also had an important impact on graduate student mentoring since many of our graduate students are working in Francophone Studies. In Fall quarter of 2007 FIS also instituted a Graduate Program Coordinator adjunct for our Italian Masters program, currently occupied by Professor Susan Gaylard, who also developed a graduate program brochure for Italian studies. The number of graduate studies applicants in Italian has increased yearly and includes applicants from overseas as well as the United States. Recent graduates of our MA program in Italian have been accepted into prestigious Ph.D. programs (Marina Gagliardi, University of Chicago; Valentina Nocentini, Columbia University). Gaylard and Turnovsky also work together in offering periodic graduate mentoring workshops. It should be noted that French and Italian faculty have been key in mentoring and graduating Ph.Ds in other departments as well, most particularly Comparative Literature, where various students work primarily with FIS faculty. In times of scarcity of employment several of our graduate students and graduate students in Comparative Literature who work closely with our faculty have been successful in obtaining tenure-track positions in academia. In 2009-2010 this included Lisa Connell (University of West Georgia), (Loredana DiMartino (University of San Diego), Delphine Gras (Florida Gulf Coast University), and Fabrizio Cilento (Messiah College)

At the undergraduate level the increase from a half-time to a full-time appointment for Administrative Coordinator Jennifer Keene has enabled her to supplement undergraduate advising. In Spring of 2008 FIS applied to the College of Arts and Sciences for a permanent advising funding grant to increase Tatta's advising position from 50% to 100% but the request was denied. Last year FIS created two new faculty administrative positions to assist with undergraduate mentoring. The first is an Honors Program coordinator (Louisa Mackenzie) who meets with and advises honors students in addition to other faculty they may be working with. The coordinator also teaches a yearly course

on research methodology in spring quarter for students writing honors theses. The second is an Internship coordinator (Richard Watts) who assists in developing internship possibilities both in Seattle and overseas and serves as faculty mentor for students participating in internships. Both the Honors Program coordinator and Internship coordinator work closely with our staff undergraduate adviser Sabrina Tatta. Tatta has also been very active in creating wordlink advising and mentoring opportunities for undergraduates majoring in foreign languages. For undergraduate students as for graduate students FIS has been active over the past few years in nominating and promoting them for awards and fellowships. During that time we have had two recipients of the prestigious Dean's Medals in the Humanities (Ada Dea Sherman Albuquerque da Silva—2009 and William Cory Potts—2010), one Macfarlane Scholarship recipient (Lauren Roth—2008-09), one Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship recipient (Kiera Clarke—2007), and one Library Research Award recipient (Valerie Hoagland, who worked with Professor Susan Gaylard). Our unit has also implemented student exit surveys to help us recognize and address needs in student mentoring. Many of our undergraduate majors have gone on to impressive endeavors indicative of the global and interdisciplinary relevance of a UW French major: French honors program student Rozanna Fang is working with a non-profit helping to rebuild Haiti, and going to graduate school in public health, while Cory Potts received a Marshall Fellowship and was admitted to universities in the UK and Brussels. Chelsea Anderson received a full scholarship from the Indiana University School of Law, Elizabeth Hiskey was accepted into the Teach for America program and Kate Osborne was admitted to several UK universities to study linguistics. In addition, five graduates a year on average receive teaching positions in France through the French embassy. Kiera Clarke Rose in Italian received a prestigious Jack Kent Cook scholarship which will pay for all expenses for her graduate education while Marco Manuel won a national fellowship with Teatromania, to study and perform theater in Italy.

3) development and implementation of a diversity plan—FIS is currently drafting a diversity plan in consultation with the UW Diversity Council, GO-MAP guidelines and other departments in the Humanities—this plan will be completed by the end of Spring quarter 2011. Diversity offerings in the unit have improved with the arrival of Watts, who offers courses on Caribbean, North- and sub-Saharan Africa, and Vietnamese francophone literature and cinema. Watts was very present locally during the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake in January 2010, writing a thoughtful op-ed piece in the Seattle Times, “Haitian earthquake victims need our help, not misplaced pity or scorn,” participating in the KCBS radio program “Voices of Diversity,” and serving as a panelist at a “Haiti Teach-in” at Seattle University and a speaker at Seattle Central Community College. Professor Louisa Mackenzie volunteers for the Greater Seattle Business Association's student scholarship fund which awards undergraduate scholarships to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Students). She is currently teaching a graduate seminar in queer theory and queer ecology and an advanced undergraduate course on gender. Many undergraduate students have expressed interest in a 400-level version of her queer theory course, with a French focus. She also is participating in the establishment of a new cross-college Certificate in Queer Studies and has been invited to be an affiliate faculty in Women Studies. Susan Gaylard routinely teaches gender and

queer theory in her graduate seminar on women in the Renaissance. Douglas Collins now offers a course on France and Islam.

4) progress in further reducing time to degree. Increased mentoring by the faculty GPCs and securing fellowships for graduate students has produced further advances in reducing time to degree. Students are made aware very early of the timetable to timely degree completion and students who had been lingering have been encouraged to finish. The results can be seen in PhDs over the past year and a half, one in Autumn 2009, two in Summer 2010, two in Autumn 2010, two more expected this winter and spring. The review committee rightfully questioned the wisdom of asking some graduate students, especially in French, to teach 100%. We have eliminated that practice except in cases in which ABD candidates request a 100% appointment in one quarter to allow them to dedicate themselves in the subsequent quarter to their research and writing without teaching obligations. Below is a table detailing improvement in time to degree in the unit:

**Time to Degree (PhDs)
FIS**

Year PhD awarded	# of PhDs awarded	Time to Degree (Post-MA to completion of PhD, in years)
93-94	2	7 (Smith) 7 (Reinking)
94-95	2	17 (Cremin) 12 (Jeon-Chapman)
95-96	1	11 (Thomas)
96-97	1	8 (Vilavella)
97-98	0	--
98-99	3	5 (Olivier) 7 (Wolter) 13 (Vanderheyden)
99-00	1	7 (Baker)
00-01	1	10 (Peters-Newell)
01-02	2	5 (Gilles) 20 (McDowell)
02-03	2	5 (Maynard) 8 (Guarnieri)
03-04	3	9 (Beck) 15 (Dearmont) 8 (Latowsky)
04-05	1	8 (Evans)
05-06	1	7 (Matthies)
06-07	0	--
07-08	1	8 (Miller)
08-09	0	--

09-10	1	8 (Baraboi)
10-11	4 + 2 anticipated	5 (Connell) 9 (Meng) 5 (Terry) 8 (Webber) 6 (Friedli - <i>anticipated</i>) 5 (Mema- <i>anticipated</i>)
TOTALS	26 + 2 anticipated	

Over the past 18 academic years represented by this chart, average time to degree was 8.7 years. From the 2005-06 academic year to the present (including anticipated degrees), the average time to degree has dropped to 6.8 years. In addition, graduate students not represented on this chart (current PhCs Kamin, Mouflard, Strom) are all following and expected to graduate in normative time.

5) increasing productivity of professional faculty. Faculty have worked together to substantially increase productivity, through better distribution of administrative duties and teaching scheduling. As a unit we have been very proactive in securing internal and external awards including one Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Residential Fellowship (Watts), one Newberry Library Fellowship for Individual Research (Gaylard), two Royalty Research Fund Scholar awards (Turnovsky, Mackenzie), two Simpson Center for the Humanities Research Scholar awards (Turnovsky, Watts), one Simpson Center for the Humanities NEH Summer Stipend Initiative award (Turnovsky), one Center for West European Studies overseas research grant (Gaylard), two Modern Language Quarterly travel research grants (Gaylard, Mackenzie). FIS has a substantial crew of senior lecturers and more travel funding has been made available to them both internally and through our participation with the Center for West European Studies to attend professional conferences. Book publications over the past four years have been numerous with 8 titles, including 3 scholarly monographs (Louisa, Mackenzie, *The Poetry of Place: Lyric, Landscape, and Ideology in Renaissance France*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010; Geoffrey Turnovsky, *The Literary Market: Authorship and Modernity in the Old Regime*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009; Ruggero Taradel, *L'accusa del sangue. Storia politica di un mito antisemita*, 2nd edition, Roma, Editori Riuniti/L'Unità, 2008). All three of these publications have made substantial contributions to the field: Turnovsky's book was favorably reviewed in the Times Literary Supplement (July 9, 2010); the interdisciplinary nature of Mackenzie's book makes it of "crucial interest to a wide range of academic audiences" (Jeffrey N. Peters—Associate Professor of French Studies, University of Kentucky); Taradel's book, now in a second expanded edition, has been praised by Riccardo Di Segni, Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Rome for the "extreme precision and accuracy" of its research. Taradel has been interviewed on both Italian television and radio with respect to his research. In addition to these three studies Giuseppe Leporace has published a collection of the translated verse of Italian poet Amelia Rossellini, and Claudio Mazzola, Hedwige Meyer and Giuseppe Tassone have all published language textbooks and film guides. During the same period scholarly articles and book chapters by FIS faculty have

been published in various fora including the Cambridge Companion Series. Several of our faculty members (Geoffrey Turnovsky, Louisa Mackenzie, Susan Gaylard) have been active members of EMERGE (Early Modern Research Group). EMERGE has received three Simpson Center Research Cluster Awards to bring to campus and our unit various visitors and lecturers. FIS has also been the main sponsoring unit for Walker-Ames Visiting Professor Paolo Valesio (Columbia University) in 2011 and Katz Lecturer in the Humanities Steven Ungar (University of Iowa) in 2009. In short, FIS has markedly increased its scholarly productivity and presence in the field and has been very proactive in seeking and receiving support for research and bringing visiting scholars to campus.

6) progress in securing a chair that can teach in the program, including developing a strategy to cultivate leadership within the Division—On July 1, 2007 FIS faculty member Albert Sbragia was appointed chair of the unit. It was the first non-temporary internal chair appointment in nearly 15 years. The division welcomed this return to self-governance and it has proceeded well. There is a sense in the unit that we are able to manage our affairs successfully and professionally and that our trajectory is very positive indeed. Faculty at all levels occupy various administrative positions and chair committees. Professor Denyse Delcourt served admirably as acting chair in spring 2010 during Sbragia's absence. The hire of Associate Professor Richard Watts who comes with ample administrative experience at Tulane University together with the promotion of two junior faculty last year to be followed most likely by the promotion of our last remaining junior faculty member ensures that the department will not lack for internal leadership. The next promotional goal for this unit will be from the Associate to Full rank and I am confident that one or more promotions of this sort will occur before the unit's next 10-year-review.

Despite current fiscal constraints French and Italian Studies continues to grow in importance and prominence both within the University of Washington and with respect to our national peers. We continue to maintain thriving undergraduate and graduate programs with 141 French majors, 39 Italian majors, 15 French graduate students and 6 Italian graduate students. Although we sustained the loss of two faculty members during and immediately after our 10-year-review we have rebounded nicely with the hire of a dynamic associate level faculty member and the promotion of our junior faculty. The problem that afflicted the unit in retaining and promoting junior faculty has been resolved. We are overall a youthful department with proven success. Internal growth on the Italian side could be facilitated in the future by the bundling of a senior lecturer slot into a new tenure-stream hire.

The success in developmental activities initiated by John Keeler has continued to prosper, especially on the Italian side where 5 new endowments have been created with funding for a 6th already in place and commitment by a donor for a 7th. Senior lecturers Giuseppe Leporace and Claudio Mazzola have continued to be very involved in securing donors, planning our annual major fundraising event, and reach out to the community through lectures and film festivals. On the French side the French Advisory Board has dissolved but nonetheless a new endowment for undergraduates was created and I anticipate a new,

reconstituted Board to become operational in the next couple of years as we reach out to our supporters.

The softening of the language requirement at the University of Washington has not adversely affected enrollments; denial rates, especially in French, continue to be among the very highest in the language and literature units. Our teaching has diversified with new large introductory lecture courses being recently instituted. Our Rome 250 course, taught by Albert Sbragia and Professor Mary O'Neil in History, is cross-listed in Italian, History and Art History—it services 120 students yearly and has been in operation for several years as has Denyse Delcourt's French Fairytales course with similar enrollment. Susan Gaylard launched a Fashion course two years ago which reached 120 enrollment immediately (Gaylard has been approached by graduate students from across the College to offer a similar course at the graduate level). Similar large enrollment, cross-disciplinary courses by Geoffrey Turnovksy on media and culture and Louisa Mackenzie on French and European cinema are being launched. Rich Watts is participating in a series of new 200-level Environmental Humanities courses being offered by our Humanities Division. All of these courses providing new and diverse content teaching experiences for our graduate student teaching assistants further preparing them to compete successfully in the academic marketplace. Our 300-level French gateway courses average 50+ students and are among the very largest content courses offered in target languages at the UW. We have instituted new hybrid classroom/on-line courses in French to increase our efficiency and will be investigating creating similar courses on the Italian side. In short, we have been very proactive in forging a new and exciting instructional paradigm of large outreach courses and courses of cross-departmental reference. Our faculty, lecturers and graduate student instructors are among the very best. In the Department Ratings Summary issued by the Office of Educational Assessment for Autumn 2009 through Summer 2010, FIS scored consistently above or at scores for the Humanities and the UW at large for "Course as a whole," "Instructor's effectiveness in teaching the subject matter" and "Combined items 1-4." Faculty and lecturers Giuseppe Leporace, Hedwige Meyer, Geoffrey Turnovsky, Adrienne Paetzke, Cecilia Strettoi have all been nominated for Distinguish Teaching Awards over the last few years as well as Teaching Assistants Vanja Skoric and Claire Mouflard. Geoffrey Turnovsky and Jennifer Keene are currently under consideration for Distinguished Graduate Mentor and Distinguished Staff awards.

We also boast some of the longest standing and most successful overseas courses offered by the UW, including our spring quarter Italian Studies program at the UW Rome Center and Rogliano, Calabria (which now includes an experiential learning experience at archeological sites in Rome and elementary schools in Rogliano), our Summer in Paris program, and our program in Nantes.

In short, the Division of French and Italian Studies has thrived since the time of our 2006 10 year review. We have succeeded in promoting top-notch and highly productive faculty. We have dramatically improved the quality of our undergraduate and graduate programs and placement of our graduates. We have moved evermore to the forefront of

UW intellectual life through our advancement of a broad and cross-disciplinary curriculum, increased interaction with other units and on-campus centers such as the Simpson Center for the Humanities and the Center for West European Studies, active promotion and involvement in bringing important lecturers and speakers to the University of Washington, and increased scholarly visibility both nationally and internationally. We have accomplished much of this in times of financial distress and stand poised to achieve even more as the University of Washington retools to re-emerge from the current recession as a premier research and teaching institution.