

MICHIGAN STATE **UNIVERSITY**

July 20, 2017

To: Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, Interim Co-Chair, Romance and Classical Studies
Jason Merrill, Interim Chair, Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages
Susan Gass, Co-Director, CeLTA
David Prestel, Co-Director, CeLTA
Tony Grubbs, Romance and Classical Studies
Tom Lovik, Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages

From: Christopher P. Long, Dean, College of Arts & Letters

Re: Executive Planning Committee for the School of Language Sciences & Literary and Cultural Studies



College of Arts & Letters

Office of the Dean

Christopher P. Long
Dean

479 West Circle Drive
320 Linton Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

517-355-4597
Fax: 517-355-0159
www.cal.msu.edu

On May 15, 2017, I received the final report from the Action Committee for the School of Language Sciences & Literary and Cultural Studies. After a year of preparation and discussion in which the Exploration and Planning Task Force gave rise to the Action Committee and the faculty, staff, and students in the Departments of Romance and Classical Studies (RCS) and of Linguistics & Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages (LGSAAL) considered the value of coming together under a new administrative structure, I am pleased to accept the main recommendations of the Action Committee about the next steps that need to be taken to establish the School of Language Sciences & Literary and Cultural Studies.

Before articulating those steps and the process by which we will accomplish them, I want to pause a moment to express my deep gratitude for the leadership of all the members of both the Task Force and the Action Committee, and specifically, for the tireless work of the co-chairs of both, Susan Gass and Rocío Quispe-Agnoli. The process by which the Task Force and the Action Committee undertook their responsibilities was marked by an integrity, candor, and transparency that provide us with an excellent model for the future operations of the new school.

The Next Steps

The Action Committee's report proposed that we establish a transition team and a Director of Transition who will work closely with the Chairpersons of LGSAAL and RCS, and the Directors of SLS and CeLTA. To take up this recommendation, I am establishing an Executive Planning Committee (EPC) to guide the transition. The EPC will be chaired by

Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, who has also been appointed as Interim Co-Chair of the Department of Romance and Classical Studies. The contact person in the College who will help to guide the School creation process is Associate Dean Sonja Fritzsche.

The Executive Planning Committee

The EPC is composed of chairs of the two existing language departments, the co-directors of CeLTA, and faculty representatives from RCS and LGSAAL:

Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, Interim Co-Chair, Romance and Classical Studies, Chair EPC
Jason Merrill, Interim Chair, Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages
Susan Gass, Co-Director, CeLTA
David Prestel, Co-Director, CeLTA
Tony Grubbs, Romance and Classical Studies
Tom Lovik, Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages

The Charge

The Executive Planning Committee will:

- Oversee and manage the necessary steps toward the creation of the School of Language Sciences & Literary and Cultural Studies during the AY 2017-2018;
- Consult with the Dean's Office regarding the appointment of a search committee that will develop a job description and undertake a national search for the inaugural Director of the School of Language Sciences & Literary and Cultural Studies;
- Develop a job description and work with the Dean to appoint a search committee for a national search for a Director the Center for Language Teaching Advancement;
- Create and execute a plan to implement the recommendations outlined by the Action Committee in section IV.2, "Next Steps" as appropriate;
- Engage faculty from all units associated with the new School in the transition process so that a culture of trust, transparency, and collaboration takes root in the new School.
- The EPC chair will work with Bill Hart-Davidson, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, to continue to facilitate the implementation of the School Collaboration Grants from AY 16-17 into AY 17-18.

Deadlines

Constitution of Search Committee for the Director of the School,
August 16, 2017

Constitution of Search Committee for the Director of CeLTA,
September 1, 2017

Final job description for the School Director from search committee,
August 21, 2017

Final job description for the CeLTA Director from search committee,
September 8, 2017

Submission of Draft EPC Report with Program Bylaws,
March 15, 2018

Deadline for EPC Report,
May 15, 2018

Approval of School through the University Process,
July 1, 2018

This is the third phase of an initiative designed to empower the faculty to imagine what a renewed investment in the study of languages might enable us to do at a University that is committed to its world-grant mission.

I look forward to working with you and the faculty on this initiative and I appreciate your time and the dedication you each have demonstrated to the College of Arts & Letters and Michigan State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris P. Long", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Christopher P. Long
Dean, College of Arts & Letters

CC: RCS, LGSAAL, and CeLTA Faculty