

November 9, 2004

David W. Pershing  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
205 Park  
Campus

RE: Proposal to Change Name of Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics to Ph.D. in Linguistics

Dear Vice President Pershing:

At its meeting of October 25, 2004, the Graduate Council voted to approve a proposal to change the name of the Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics to Ph.D. in Linguistics, within the Department of Linguistics.

According to the proposal, the new name will more appropriately reflect the academic and research focus of the doctoral program within the department.

A copy of the proposal is attached for your approval and transmittal to the Academic Senate.

Sincerely,

David S. Chapman  
Assoc. V.P. for Graduate Studies  
Dean, The Graduate School

XC: Marianna DiPaolo, Chair, Department of Linguistics  
Robert D. Newman, Dean, College of Humanities

## **Request for Name Change**

David Chapman, Dean of the Graduate School, 310 Park Building

### **1. Request for Name Change**

The Linguistics Department requests that the name of its PhD degree, currently "PhD in Applied Linguistics", be changed to, simply, "PhD in Linguistics".

### **2. Need for the change**

The Department's PhD program in Applied Linguistics is currently in its third year. We currently have ten students in the program. Last year we had 23 applicants to the program and accepted four.

The name PhD in Applied Linguistics emphasized the Department's particular strength in applied linguistics. However, the department has two new faculty members this year, has launched the Center for American Indian Languages, and has developed additional concentrations of strength in American Indian languages, Endangered Languages and Language Revitalization, and aspects of theoretical linguistics (in particular phonology and language acquisition). We need to make the name of the graduate degree reflect these changes and be attractive to graduate students interested in these areas. (They will not be attracted to a degree with the more circumscribed title of "applied linguistics," even though these areas and the applied programs interact and mutually strengthen one another.)

This constitutes a rather minimal change to make the name better reflect the current reality of the program and needs of the students. None of the substantive offerings or requirements will change significantly.

### **3. Institutional Impact**

The proposed change will help to improve enrollments in linguistics at the PhD level. While the change represents no significant change in our course offerings, symbolically it will result in the programs offered being more attractive to a wider range of students and will capitalize on the department's strengths.

The proposed change will not affect existing administrative structures in any way.

### **4. Cost**

The change requires no additional cost, no new facilities, no new faculty, and no extra equipment. It can be done with existing resources and structures, and the change is one of name only, not substance or behavior. It has no budgetary implications or impact at all (save the potential increased revenue from anticipated increased enrollment at the doctoral level, which the department is already well equipped to handle).

### **5. Practice Elsewhere**

It is very uncommon for PhD degrees from linguistics departments to bear the name "Applied Linguistics." Rather, usually the degree is just called "PhD in Linguistics", where the specialized subfield of the PhD student is indicated in the curriculum vitae as, for example, "applied linguistics" or "American Indian linguistics" or "phonology" or "syntax", etc. This change will bring the University of Utah more in line with common practice elsewhere.

Provide a summary or compilation of names used in **peer institutions**.

Arizona State University: PhD in Linguistics (with focus on Anthropology)

Rice University: PhD in Linguistics

University of Arizona: PhD in Linguistics (also PhD in Anthropology, concentration Linguistics Anthropology)

University of Hawaii: PhD in Linguistics

University of New Mexico: PhD in Linguistics (track specializations/concentrations: PhD in Computational Linguistics) (The College of Education, but not the Linguistics Department, offers "PhD in Educational Linguistics")

University of Oregon: PhD in Linguistics

University of Washington: PhD in Linguistics, PhD in Romance Linguistics

The following have no PhD in Linguistics or allied areas: BYU, University of Colorado, University of Montana, University of Nevada, University of Wyoming

In general, universities across North America with Linguistics departments which offer PhD degrees predominantly have only a single degree titled "PhD in Linguistics."

PhD degrees in "applied linguistics" are rare, mostly not found in peer institutions, and are more common at universities which lack a Linguistics Department, typically offered through departments of English, schools of Education, or interdisciplinary programs, but not by Linguistics departments. Some main ones are:

Boston University: Interdisciplinary program PhD in Applied Linguistics

Georgia State University: PhD in Applied Linguistics, given by Dept of Applied Linguistics & ESL

Iowa State University: Dept of English to begin offering PhD in Applied Linguistics and Technology in 2005

PennState University: Linguistics and Applied Language Studies PhD in Applied Linguistics in German with concentration in applied linguistics, in Spanish with concentration in applied linguistics, in French with concentration in applied linguistics

University of Alabama: PhD in English with concentration on Applied Linguistics

UCLA: Dept of Applied Linguistics & TESL PhD in Applied Linguistics (UCLA's Linguistics Dept offers a "PhD in Linguistics" only)

University of Northern Arizona: PhD in English Dept's Applied Linguistics Program.

**6. Changes, if any, in precise names of degrees offered**  
To be called "PhD in Linguistics"