

November 30, 2004

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

RE: Proposal to Change Name of Master of Arts in Teaching in the Department
of Languages and Literature, to Master of Arts in Language Pedagogy

Dear Vice President Pershing:

At its meeting of November 29, 2004, the Graduate Council voted to approve a proposal to change the name of the Master of Arts in Teaching within the Department of Languages and Literature, to a Master of Arts in Language Pedagogy.

According to the proposal, the name change more accurately reflects the nature of the degree program and avoids confusion with the recently approved Master of Arts in Teaching in the Department of Teaching and Learning. The name change will include emphases in either French, German or Spanish and is scheduled to become effective by the end of Spring semester 2005.

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: Robert Newman, Dean, College of Humanities
Mushira Eid, Chair, Department of Languages and Literature
Johanna Watzinger Tharp, Department of Languages and Literature

David Chapman, Dean
The Graduate School, University of Utah
310 Park Building

Request for Name Change of Existing Program
Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.), Dept. of Languages & Literature

1. Request

To change the name of the Department of Languages and Literature's *M.A.T., Master of Arts in Teaching*, to *M.A. in Language Pedagogy* (with French, German or Spanish Emphasis).

2. Need

The name change from *M.A.T. in Teaching* to *M.A. in Language Pedagogy* reflects current practices in U.S. institutions. A Masters of Arts in *Teaching*, (M.A.T.) typically refers to a course of study that includes certification for teaching in the public schools, and is therefore associated with a school of education. A masters degree related to language teaching without such certification is typically granted from a languages or linguistics department, and prepares students to teach in private high schools or at the post-secondary level, typically a two- or four-year college, or to pursue a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics. (Such a Ph.D. is in fact offered in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Utah.)

The M.A.T. that is currently offered in the Department of Languages & Literature falls into the latter category, since the degree does not provide students with public school certification. The new name thus more accurately reflects the nature of the program.

It should also be mentioned that the Department of Learning and Teaching at the University of Utah is putting into place an M.A.T with certification for students with a bachelor's degree. Obviously, our graduate program should not bear the same title.

3. Institutional Impact

The name change has no bearing on enrollment or administrative structure. The program will continue to be one of two M.A. degrees offered in the Department of Languages & Literature.

4. Costs

There are no costs associated with the name change.

5. Practice Elsewhere

A number of institutions confer M.A. degrees related to the study of foreign languages with emphases on language and linguistics, literature, and language teaching. They may be housed in foreign language departments (equivalent to the Department of Languages & Literature at the University of Utah) and bear names such as **M.A. French, German, Spanish and Latin Pedagogy** (Kent State University), **M.A. in German Studies and in French and Italian with Pedagogy Option** (Univ. of Arizona), **M.A. French Linguistics**, University of Texas at Austin, and **M.A. in Second Language Acquisition**, University of Wisconsin, to name a few.

We have opted for the name “M.A. in *Language Pedagogy*” rather than *Linguistics* since the degree is granted in the Department of Languages & Literature, not in Linguistics.

We prefer *pedagogy* to *second language acquisition* as our degree focuses on the *teaching* of a foreign language rather than its *acquisition*. Finally, we don’t call the degree an *option*, as it is separate from the department’s M.A. in literature.

6. and 7. Changes in Names of Degrees and Catalog Prefixes, Course Designations etc.

The change affects only the degree name itself. None of the courses offered will be affected by this change.