**Potter College of Arts & Letters**

**Western Kentucky University**

**745-2345**

# REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Date: March 24, 2011

The Potter College of Arts & Letters submits the following items for consideration:

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| **Type of Item** | **Description of Item & Contact Information** |
| Action | **Proposal to Create a New Minor**  Minor in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)  Contact: Elizabeth Grace Winkler, [Elizabeth.winkler@wku.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.winkler@wku.edu), 745-2415 |

Proposal Date: Feb 1, 2011

**Potter College of Arts and Letters**

**Department of English**

**Proposal to Create a New Minor Program**

**(Action Item)**

Contact Person: Elizabeth Grace Winkler, elizabeth.winkler@wku.edu; 745-2415.

**1. Identification of program:**

* 1. Program title: Minor in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)
  2. Required hours in minor program: 19
  3. Special information: None.

Catalog description: The minor in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) will prepare students interested in linguistics and language teaching to pursue teaching opportunities in private corporations or overseas in both corporations and public schools. The minor in Teaching English as a Second Language requires a minimum of 19 credit hours, including either ENG 104, 302, **or** 304 (or the equivalent), **and** ENG 407, 408, 469, 470, and 471. In addition, all students will be required to complete one year of international language classes at the college level. ENG 104, 302, or 304 (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for ENG 407. English 407 is the prerequisite for 408. ENG 471 (Practicum) must be completed at the end of coursework. **Students who complete the TESL minor and also qualify for teacher certification may also qualify for the TESL endorsement.**

**2. Rationale:**

* 1. Reason for developing the proposed minor program: Currently we offer an undergraduate endorsement in TESL that must be earned in addition to a major and a minor. This adds at least a semester to a student’s college career. The program is substantial enough to stand as a minor. English and various Education majors will be particularly interested in pursuing this option, though it will be open to all. Students earning teacher certification at any level could strengthen their credentials and their flexibility with this minor. Students not pursuing teacher certification would be credentialed to teach in private schools in the U.S. and in language schools or businesses abroad. Globally, there is a rising need for trained professionals in the field of teaching English as a second or foreign language.
  2. Projected enrollment in the proposed minor program: Based on inquiries from our students and the demand in public and private schools for TESL instruction, we estimate we will have 15 minors the first year and project steady moderate growth thereafter.
  3. Relationship of the proposed minor program to other programs now offered by the department: The coursework parallels the endorsement program already offered for Education majors. Students completing the minor would at the same time earn the endorsement, the preferred credential, **if they also complete requirements for teacher certification.**
  4. Relationship of the proposed minor program to other university programs: There is no overlap with any other degree programs in other departments with the exception of the international language requirement, which could increase enrollment in Modern Languages.
  5. Similar minor programs offered elsewhere in Kentucky and in other states (including programs at benchmark institutions): The University of Northern Iowa, Brigham Young University, Northwestern, Missouri State, James Madison, and Penn State all offer minors in TESL. In Kentucky, UL, EKU, Murray, and Georgetown offer the TESL Endorsement but not the minor. Ours would be the only TESL minor in the state, a clear advantage.
  6. Relationship of the proposed minor program to the university mission and objectives: As a leading American university with international reach, it is important that we develop programs that provide our students opportunities to expand their horizons beyond the US context and learn how to be citizens of the world. A linguistic understanding of language diversity accompanied by the real-world skills this program provides will prepare our students to be good international citizens as well as to pursue career options both here and abroad. In addition, since few U.S. universities provide linguistics-related majors or minors, this program will give students an advantage should they apply to graduate programs in linguistics and/or TESL.

**3. Objectives of the proposed minor:** Students who complete this program will gain a theoretical understanding of how languages are learned (most specifically, how English is learned by non-native speakers), different methodologies associated with language instruction and learning, and practical experience in the classroom application of this knowledge. This program will prepare students to become ESL instructors in public schools (if they have teacher certification), to become ESL instructors in private institutions or corporations in the U.S. or abroad, and to successfully pursue graduate work in linguistics and/or TESL.

**4. Curriculum:**

ENG 104 Introduction to Linguistics OR 302 Language and Communication OR 304 English Language (or the equivalent)

ENG 407 Linguistic Analysis: A study of current linguistic theory that includes the important levels of language as a means of communication, as well as various theories and applications of linguistic theory to other fields of study, particularly language teaching. (3)

ENG 408 Sociolinguistics and Psycholinguistics: A study of how sociology and psychology contribute to the study of linguistics. Emphasis is given to social and regional dialects, first and second language acquisition, and speech production. (3)

ENG469 Theories of Second Language Acquisition**:** A study of theories, methods, and approaches for teaching English as a second or foreign language and of other foreign languages. (3)

ENG 470 TESL Materials and Methods: A course designed to develop skills, procedures, and strategies for teaching and utilizing materials and for developing teacher-made materials to teach ESL/EFL and for other international languages. (3)

ENG 471: TESL Practicum: Supervision, observation, and instruction in public schools or other appropriate settings, culminating in the production of a portfolio. The class consists of 30 clock teaching hours and 15 class hours.  (4)

Additional Requirement: One year of college level international language instruction

**5. Budget implications:** None.

**6. Proposed term for implementation:** Fall 2011.

**7. Dates of prior committee approvals:**

TESL Committee 2/8/2011

English Department 2/25/2011

PCAL Curriculum Committee 3/3/2011

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

University Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment: Program Inventory Form**