March 13, 2007

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2006-2007
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Graduate Student Representative – Ms. Lindsey Scott

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for the following prefix will be an agenda item for the March 23, 2007, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting:

AMHA – Amharic Studies

Sincerely,

Dr. William K. Vencill, Chair
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Dr. Arnett C. Mace, Jr.
    Professor Jere W. Morehead

Franklin House • Athens, Georgia 30602
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution
October 3, 2006

Dr. Hugh Ruppersburg
Senior Associate Dean
College of Arts & Sciences
Old College
UGA Campus

Dear Hugh:

The African Studies Institute would like to apply for a sequence of prefixes for a language and culture course entitled Amharic Studies (AMHA). The application is for a four semester sequence, i.e. AMHA 1001-2002. A course application through CAPA has been completed and is awaiting your response to this letter to allow us to submit to the College curriculum committee.

The request for the application is a result of a three year long request and repeated petitions by undergraduate students for UGA to offer such a course. These students are first generation American Ethiopians whose parents and close relatives are originally from Ethiopia and are now naturalized Americans with dual affinity to American and Ethiopian cultures. Other interested students include children of American government officials, religious leaders, and agency official with assignments in Ethiopia. Their close involvement with the people of Ethiopia necessitates their competence in the language and its associated cultures.

Their persistence prompted African Studies to find ways to meet the needs of those who signed the petition. Some funding from a current USDE grant will be used this coming semester and subsequent three semesters to support the introduction of this class as “on demand one time offer”. African Studies has arranged with the Linguistics Program to use one of their prefixes, LING 4920: “Less Commonly Taught Languages” in the
spring 2007 to initiate the sequence. The Linguistics Program has already loaded the course on OASI and will be taught MWF 5th period. It is our hope that in the fall 2007 we can begin offering the course under the requested AMAH prefixes.

While African Studies do not guarantee continued offerings beyond this petition period, it is our belief that having this sequence established now will make them available for future offerings should such a need arise. Also, because the students would like to receive credit for their study of Amharic language and culture, and African Studies has the funds to support the three to four levels required for the study of a foreign language and culture, the availability of the sequence would facilitate that need.

It is, therefore, my sincere hope that the College will support this request.

Sincerely yours,

Lioba Moshi

Professor & Director, African Studies Institute.