TO: FACULTY SENATE

FROM: ELISA MARONEY

DATE: 12 JANUARY 2010

RE: ASL/English Interpreting Course Change

INT 253 TO INT 353: Linguistics of ASL—3 Credits

Title change
Number/Prefix change
Description change
Prerequisite change

This course is designed to examine the linguistic structural properties of American Sign Language (ASL), including phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, and how signed languages differ and are similar to spoken languages. Students will be introduced to the linguistic and culturally based communication issues that impact the process between Deaf and hearing persons. Prerequisite or co-requisite: ASL 303D: ASL 9 (This course is conducted in ASL and interpretation is not provided.); LING 210: Introduction to Linguistics or instructor approval.

The interpreting program has changed the language pre-requisites for entry from two years of ASL to three years of ASL, because students still acquiring their second language are unable to learn the task of interpretation. This course is taught in ASL and has been traditionally taught while students are in ASL 203D: ASL 6. Students in ASL 203 are unable to understand the complex content as they are still acquiring their second language. With the change to three years of ASL, students will be better prepared to take this course and understand the information. Further, with LING 210 as a pre-requisite to the linguistics of ASL course, students will have a solid foundation regarding linguistics in general and how linguistic principles apply to all languages. After taking LING 210, they can build their new and discipline-specific knowledge regarding the linguistics of ASL.