June 26, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: John A. Elliott
       Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Elimination of the Master of Arts in Judaic Studies in the Center for Judaic Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

BACKGROUND:

The MA in Judaic Studies was under the aegis of the Center for Judaic Studies until the formation of the subsection Hebrew and Judaic Studies within the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages several years ago. There now is a graduate concentration within that department in Hebrew and Judaic Studies and incoming students may pursue a MA in Hebrew and Judaic Studies and then apply for a Ph.D. in Literatures, Cultures, and Languages with an area of concentration in Hebrew and Judaic Studies. Alternatively, students may apply directly to the Ph.D. program with that concentration. In either case, the graduate program in Judaic Studies has been absorbed into Literatures, Cultures, and Languages where its core faculty have positions. No students have been admitted for several years into the Center’s MA.
ELIMINATE/DISCONTINUE PROGRAM PROPOSAL
MASTER OF ARTS IN JUDIAC STUDIES

Institution: University of Connecticut

Item: Elimination of the Master of Arts (MA) in Judaic Studies in the Center for Judaic Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Date: May 2019

Justification

The MA in Judaic Studies was under the aegis of the Center for Judaic Studies until the formation of the subsection "Hebrew and Judaic Studies (HEJS)" within the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages several years ago. There now is a graduate concentration within that department in "HEJS" and incoming students may pursue a MA in HEJS and then apply for a PhD in LCL with an area of concentration in HEJS. Alternatively, they may apply directly to the PhD program with that concentration. In either case, the graduate program in "Judaic Studies" has been absorbed into LCL where its core faculty have positions. The Center's MA should have been eliminated, but we were unaware that there was a formal process. Meanwhile, no students have been admitted for several years into the Center’s MA. Happily, we recently admitted our first students beginning academic year 2019-2020 with concentrations in Hebrew and Judaic Studies within LCL; one is pursuing a MA, the other a PhD.

Implications for/Consultations with Other Affected Programs

No negative implications, only positive. The consolidation within LCL has already resulted in the application of serious students after several years of no applications to the Center's MA. Both the Director and the Academic Director of the Center are members of LCL, and Stuart Miller, the Academic Director, is the chair of HEJS. "Consultation" was automatic, therefore.

Effect on Currently Enrolled Students

There are no students in the Center's MA program.

Effective Term

The effective term and year students will no longer be admitted to the program is Spring 2019.