Memorandum
2 October 98

TO       Dean Robert Eslinger
FROM     John L. Farthing, Interim Chair
          Department of Foreign Languages
RE       Revised Plan for Assessment of Student Achievement

While the Department has not developed a single set of strategies for assessing student achievement, each of the four programs is collecting data in the following ways:

FRENCH

Student achievement is measured by traditional measurement and evaluation tools; in addition, we employ oral proficiency assessment instruments in courses, comprehensive examinations (including written and oral expression evaluation as well as mastery of content), continuing contact with graduates over a ten-year period, along with audio and video records of student performance.

GERMAN

a) The Goethe-Institut administers language skills tests at all levels. Fayetteville uses these tests for its majors and grad students. Dr. Oudekerk intends to begin using this test as part of the comprehensive examination starting this April.
b) A complete list of recent majors will be developed and an attempt will be made to stay in touch with them in order to keep abreast of ways in which their post-Hendrix careers attest to the long-lasting effects of their training in languages at Hendrix.
c) In addition to course evaluations, we will develop a mechanism for getting detailed feedback from majors about the effectiveness of our courses in German.
d) Records of students performance on oral proficiency tests will be maintained in Dr. Oudekerk’s office.
d) Dr. Aures will keep, in addition to graded papers and exams, recorded oral interviews with students.
SPANISH

The documentation of student achievement will consist of randomly saved copies of graded tests, quizzes, papers, and homework assignments.

LATIN/GREEK

Student achievement will be assessed on the basis of graded tests (especially final examinations), term papers, unsolicited reports from former students now in graduate programs, questionnaires requesting feedback from current and former students, audio and video recordings of reading sessions at the end of each term.

If additional refinements to our assessment plan seem necessary, please let me know. I will be happy to call a departmental meeting, at a mutually convenient time, to discuss any suggestions that you may have for us.