

The original of this is charged to
Hal Walt 8.18.52.

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BERKELEY: OFFICE OF THE DEAN
COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

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May 5, 1952

PRESIDENT SPROUL:

You requested that I gather together the loose ends of the proposal to establish a Department of Linguistics and that I also look into the question of justification for and support of a California Linguistic Survey. This latter proposal relates to the salvaging of what is left of Indian languages in the general California area. These things have been done and herewith is a detailed report from Professor Emeneau on both points. Professor Emeneau has done a complete job of documenting the proposal for a new Department as well as for the Linguistic Survey, and you should find his account a sufficient basis for presentation to the Regents. I have attached to the Emeneau material a breakdown of the proposed budgets. These should serve as a basis for the budget allocations to the two units in case you approve.

I recommend favorably in both instances. The two programs have been endorsed by the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations as well as by the Committee on Educational Policy. The arguments for a Department of Linguistics are strong. At the present time scholars in several departments are carrying on research and teaching activities in this field. Since such individuals are in the main associated with departments having an emphasis on fields other than linguistics, there is a lack of complete support within the department as well as a lack of unified effort on the campus. The Department can be established with a relatively small budget since the salaries of the above individuals can be transferred to the new department without a corresponding replacement in the budget of the department with which they are now allied. Actually, at the present time it is contemplated there will be three faculty members on such a part-time basis as indicated in my breakdown.

The arguments for the support of the proposed California Linguistic Survey are of a different nature but equally compelling. In this case "time is of the essence" because of the approaching disappearance of Indians who have any familiarity at all with their parent dialects or languages. The project is of great importance, not merely linguistically, but also from the point of view of California history. Already much time has been lost. Because of this time element, I believe support of the project should be given a high priority. As in the case of the Department, I also recommend approval of this project.

It is now too late to get a departmental program into the regular catalog for next year. However, this will do no great harm since the program is of primary interest to upper division and graduate students and can be included in the supplementary announcement.

Sincerely,

A. R. Davis
Dean

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