To: Greg Dowd
From: Nadine Naber and Evelyn Alsultany
May 2, 2013
Sent via email

Dear Greg,

Evelyn and I will be meeting with you to go over our vision for Arab American Studies and to discuss possibilities with you. Here is a brief introduction to what we are thinking.

There is now a great interest in Arab American Studies on campus and located in southeast Michigan, we are in an ideal position to be a leading program in this area across the nation. In order to continue what we have built and establish the minor in AAS, we will need the following:

1) Establish an official director's position (see attached document)
2) Increase the number of courses we offer, which would require or benefit from hiring a lecturer in Arab American Studies until we are able to hire a tenure-track faculty

A note on (2) above:
Currently, we do not offer enough courses to create a minor and we also are barely making it for the certificate. In fact, with faculty leaves (Nadine and Evelyn) and Nadine's 50% AC appointment, we often have to include courses that only have very little Arab American Studies content in order to make sure we are offering students enough courses for the certificate. Consider, for instance:

Academic Year 2011-2012:
We offered four courses. Matt Stiffler taught one; Rima taught the second; Khaled Mattawa taught 1 (although he rarely ever teaches specifically Arab American courses anymore); and a course taught by Evelyn. We included Andrew Shryock's course with is about the Middle East primarily and not Middle East diasporas;

Academic Year 2012-2013
We included two of Evelyn's courses, 1 of Rima's, and Matt Stiffler's. We counted a course in communication studies that focused more on women in Islam (not as much the diaspora/the U.S.) (and this communications course prioritizes PICS students so it was hard for students to enroll).

These examples illustrate that we need to secure more courses. We did not put in a hiring request this year in order to support APIA studies. Alternately, we are requesting that we hire a lecturer in Arab American Studies and we would very highly recommend Matt Stiffler.

We would like to discuss this with you further.

Thank you,
Evelyn and Nadine