Date: 31 July 2006
To: CLAS Curriculum Committee
From: S. Yumiko Hulvey, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
RE: Request to Sunset Ph.D. in International Relations

Attached is a letter formally requesting the sunset process for the Ph. D. in International Relations from Dr. Philip Williams, Chair of the Department of Political Science. In the letter, Dr. Williams states that after consultation with faculty, the vote to sunset was unanimous to terminate the Ph.D. in International Relation. The existence of the degree program is both misleading and bureaucratically confusing. International Relations is not considered a separate discipline, but a subfield within the discipline of Political. The department has one doctoral program, in which students select a major and a minor field from a set of seven subfields. Ph.D. student with an interest in International Relations can purse the doctorate in Political Science with International Relations as their subfield.

Furthermore, Interim Dean Ken Gerhardt of the Graduate School and Dean Neil Sullivan of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have been consulted and support the decision of the department to sunset the doctoral program in International Relations.