

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SANSKRIT AND INDIAN STUDIES
1 BOW STREET • CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

E-Mail: sanskrit@fas.harvard.edu
Website: www.fas.harvard.edu/~sanskrit



Tel: 617.495.3295
Fax: 617.496.8571

April 26, 2009

To,
Honorable Professor Mark B. Rosenberg
President-designate,

Subject: Request for your support to the Department of Religious Studies, FIU

It was a really great honor to be a student (2001 to 2003) in the Department of Religious Studies at FIU, which provided me with an academic venue for my education (M. A. in Religious Studies, 2003) and whose academic luminaries trained me in the best possible way and helped me prepare for my doctoral studies at one of the most honorable academic institutions of this country. I am now deeply saddened to hear that my Department is one of the first places to be severely affected as a consequence of the financial crisis facing the university. I would like to sincerely request the administrative and academic authorities of my alma mater to kindly support my Department for the continuation of its ever expanding academic programs.

I have only most positive assessment of my Department and the faculty whose unwavering support for students' academic progress was inestimable. When I was at the Department, I took courses offered by various professors of the Department and worked as their Teaching Assistant at various times. For my thesis, I worked directly with Professors Nathan Katz and Steven Heine, and their genuinely expert guidance, along with whole-hearted academic support from the professors such as Lesley A. Northup, Erik Larson, Christine Gudorf, Daniel Alvarez, Oren Baruch Stier, James Huchingson, and Zion Zohar, made me confidently take any long stride in academia and resulted in my entry at Harvard as a Presidential Scholar of Arts and Sciences, with one of the most prestigious Presidential Scholar Award for my doctoral study and research. I am most grateful and humbled to these respected professors who mean so much more than myself in my life. As my honest tribute to my alma mater and for further academic growth of my Department, I myself will be ever ready to contribute to my Department in any way possible and would like to request you to kindly reconsider any decision that can have any serious impact on the Department's programs.

I would also like to briefly mention about the Professors of the Department. When I was there as a graduate student, the professors of the Department were "always" willing to help all of us and available all the time for academic guidance. They were extremely concerned about our progress and immaculate in whatever academic advising or teaching they did. Personally, they changed me for better quality- research and meaningful academic interactions. I also have a very strong conviction that any student who "always" wishes to make "impartial" judgment for the greater weal of my Department and the university will have the most wholesome assessment of our

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faculty as worthy of any great recognition for their exemplary academic service. As a student, I can only extend my life-long gratitude to these distinguished academicians for their expertise, selfless service, and honest dedication.

As the regular news reports from FIU mention, these times are financially constraining, and some adjustments are imperative in difficult times. However, it would be for the greater welfare of the university to collectively bear the difficulties and collaborate but not at the cost of the Department whose programs are so nationally competitive and whose Professors are so genuinely dedicated to its academic growth.

I, therefore, sincerely request the university authorities to kindly support the Department of Religious Studies and not take any measures that would diminish the excellence of its quality programs.

Sincerely,

Nawaraj Chaulagain
Ph. D. Candidate
Email: nchaulag@fas.harvard.edu
Department of Sanskrit, Indian and Himalayan Studies
Harvard University