

July 26, 2004

Dear Committee

I am writing to ask your approval of our request that the 2.5 GPA currently required for admission into the African and African American Studies major be lowered to 2.0. Faculty who teach courses for the AFS program support this request. Our reason for this change is straightforward.

When the AFS major was first organized and approved by the Ohio Board of Regents in 2000, our vision was that although not a typical requirement in colleges, departments, and programs across our university, a 2.5 admission requirement would not impair AFS' ability to attract majors. Over the past four years, this dream has proven to be unrealistic in the light of the GPA backgrounds of the student population from which AFS draws its students.

Please be certain that lowering the AFS admission requirement will not mean a denigration of the academic rigor of the program and its courses. Indeed, the same high standards that have marked the program from its beginning will remain in place.

Lowering AFS' GPA admission requirement to 2.0 will have at least two important consequences. It will place our major in line with the majority of admission requirements across the university. It will make the major open to greater numbers of our university's students.

By making the major open to greater numbers of students, and by requiring these students to follow the same rigorous academic program that has always been the standard of AFS, it is conceivable that there will be a positive impact on the academic records of more of our students.

AFS faculty seeks your approval of this petition.

Sincerely,

Professor Paul R. Griffin
Director, African and African American Studies