To: Joseph Boles, Astrid Klocke  
From: Cecilia Ojeda, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages  
Date: January 22, 2008  
Re: The Program in Cinema and Visual Culture at NAU

This is an official letter of support for the Program in Cinema and Visual Culture currently in the planning stages at NAU. It is my opinion that such a program will benefit students at Northern Arizona University as it will contribute to develop a more sophisticated understanding of contemporary culture, both at the national and international levels. It is an indisputable fact that at present the global cultural landscape calls for an informed public cognizant of the immense power of visual technologies and mass media in shaping people’s opinions and perceptions of the world. It is our responsibility to educate our younger citizens to be critical viewers, and not merely consumers of images.

The faculty of the Department of Modern Languages has an important role to play in the establishment and development of said program through the offering of courses such as WLLC 111 Introduction to Russian Cinema, WLLC 141 Introduction to German Cinema, WLLC 151 Introduction to Asian Cinema, WLLC 161 Introduction to French Cinema just to name a few. The inclusion of these courses in the program’s curriculum will support NAU’s strategic plan towards internationalization and recognize its commitment to diversity. I look forward to the successful development of this program in the near future.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Ojeda  
Chair, Department of Modern Languages  
College of Arts and Letters  
Northern Arizona University