March 28, 2010

President’s Review Committee
UNLV

Dear Members of the President’s Review Committee

I am writing in regards to the possible consideration of closing the English Language Center at UNLV. The English Second Language program at the College of Southern Nevada implores you not to close this valuable Learning Center that benefits not only our community but the international students who travel to Las Vegas to attend the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Of our ESL students at CSN, the vast majority continue to UNLV for a higher degree. Furthermore, many Millennium Scholarship students graduating from our local high schools need the services of the English Language Center to improve their language skills before they can be accepted into the regular English Department. However, the ESL program at the College of Southern Nevada turned away hundreds of ESL students
last semester, so sending UNLV students to CSN is not an option. No additional classes can be scheduled because:

1. There is no classroom space.
2. There are no funds to hire adjunct faculty to teach additional sections of ESL.
3. The ESL classes at CSN are now full to the maximum allowed by the fire code, so students cannot be added to these sections.

In addition, the English Language Center at UNLV offers certain courses for professionals in the community. These courses are not available at the College of Southern Nevada: Technical English for ESL, American Culture, Advance Applied English Grammar, and Vocabulary and Idioms. These courses offer the professionals a unique opportunity to improve their job-related skills.

As stated above, many of the second language students who are attending on Millennium Scholarships at CSN and also students recruited from abroad need to take at least one ESL course, which is probably also the norm at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. If the resources offered by the English Language Center, a valuable adjunct to UNLV’S regular classes, were to be discontinued, these bright students would be denied invaluable courses for future success in their college careers.

Finally, the CSN English Language program and UNLV’S English Language Center have a mutually supportive relationship which benefits both faculty and
students. Closing the ELC may seem to offer a temporary savings for UNLV, but the long term repercussions for all second language students would be devastating for those in the Las Vegas community and those abroad by denying them access to a valuable resource.

Sincerely,

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