March 26, 2010

Dr. Vicki Holmes
Director, English Language Center
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 455023
University of Nevada, Las Vegas 89154-5023

Dear Program Review Committee,

I am writing in support of the English Language Center (ELC) to be retained as a vital office here on the campus of UNLV. As Director of the Office of Student Conduct, I can offer my complete support and endorsement to the ELC’s good work in helping students make a smooth transition from their English as a second language to a successful academic experience here at UNLV. Specifically, I would like to note my observation of the following important aspects of ELC:

- Preparing students through their quality language training to international students. Through countless interactions with international students, I have heard much praise for the invaluable assistance the ELC has provided to this very important group of UNLV students as they prepare to use English not only in the academic setting, but also in their personal and professional life.
- The incredibly wide range of classes (i.e. grammar, speaking, study skills, business program) as well as language placement testing offered by ELC in the year-round program. I believe these programs go a long way in ensuring that these students are entering UNLV prepared to succeed. This also aids in the retention of our international students – who provide great strength to our campus community both in terms of the diversity they bring to UNLV as well as the notable tuition paid by each international student.
- Support of Academic Integrity within our students. Ever since the creation of the UNLV Student Academic Misconduct Policy, the English Language Center has not only been extremely proactive in the promotion of academic integrity, but also truly supportive of the mission to help students learn the value of incorporating academic and personal integrity into their lives – both here at UNLV and beyond. I have always been incredibly grateful to have such a supportive department working with this key group of UNLV students on the critical central aspect of academic integrity.

As a student affairs professional who comes into contact with thousands of students each year through various developmental and corrective means, I wish to state my strong support for the ELC, and look forward to collaborating with this unit on continuing to serve UNLV international and ESL students.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Philip Burns, Director
Office of Student Conduct

Office of Student Conduct
4505 Maryland Parkway • Box 452019
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-2019
Main 702-895-2308 • Fax 702-895-2514
OfficeofStudentConduct@unlv.edu