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January 28, 2013

Glen Cope, Provost  
Academic Affairs, UMSL  
426 Woods Hall

Dear Provost Cope,

I have reviewed Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos' self-study and also am quite familiar with the work that he has done under the auspices of the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Endowed Professorship in Greek Studies. It is my pleasure to add my comments to the five-year review.

Simply, Dr. Cosmopoulos is an academic star who has more than fulfilled all of our highest expectations when the endowed professorship program was established. Dr. Cosmopoulos has excelled in teaching, research, and community outreach. Without any foundation to build upon, he has created a Greek studies program that now must be considered among the best and most active in the nation. Through his efforts alone, UMSL has gained enormous benefits in both substance and profile in his areas of interest. Permit me to be more specific.

- Dr. Cosmopoulos has a distinguished and highly productive research record. He is one of the top scholars in the field of Greek archeology and has published extensively in the area.
- Dr. Cosmopoulos is the lead investigator at two excavations: Eleusis, which he inherited from his mentor, and Iklaina, whose investigation he began on his own. The UMSL name is primarily associated with the Iklaina site and it is here that Cosmopoulos will make his reputation. His annual excavations at the Iklaina site have involved many UMSL students and the discoveries at this site have earned him (and UMSL) international recognition. Students who participate on the excavation invariably call this the most interesting and important academic experience during their undergraduate years.
- Dr. Cosmopoulos has organized several highly successful academic conferences, the proceedings of which have been published. These conferences both add to the scholarship in Greek studies and highlight UMSL as a global center for research in the humanities.

- Dr. Cosmopoulos has generated very significant amounts of external funds to support his research and excavations, as well as gift funds to expand the Greek studies program. His success in this area rivals the accomplishments of every other endowed professor and fulfills the real expectations of the original endowed professorship program.
- Dr. Cosmopoulos has created a full-fledged Greek studies program, including a broad array of on campus courses, as well as semester and summer-long study abroad experiences in Greece. Working through International Studies and Programs, he has done a masterful job of program development. This is of particular note, because he has created this program without any pre-existing foundation.
- Dr. Cosmopoulos is a distinguished educator who receives rave reviews from students. We receive regular reports from students who participate in his study abroad programs that he is a master teacher who regularly excites students about Greek studies. The steady growth of enrollments in courses about Greece can largely be attributed to his impact as an educator.
- Dr. Cosmopoulos has created a huge community following to attend the lectures and cultural programs that he organizes. This effort has built a loyal following in the community and has created a very positive image for UMSL.

In conclusion, I can report that Dr. Cosmopoulos has exceeded all of our expectations for the Greek Professorship. His work is outstanding in all respects and we should be proud that he is the holder of the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Endowed Professorship.

I would, of course, be pleased to discuss this evaluation with you, should you find it useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Glassman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joel Glassman  
Associate Provost, Academic Affairs  
Director, International Studies and Programs

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Dr. Glen Cope  
The Provost  
UMSL.

Dear Provost Cope:

**Five-Year Study Report on Dr. Cosmopoulos – Endowed Professor of Greek Studies.**

**RESEARCH:**

In focusing on his research since his arrival at UMSL in 2001, Dr. Cosmopoulos has authored three books and has a fourth that will be published in 2013 by Cambridge University Press. In addition, he has been the sole editor of four edited books published by international presses. Also, he continues to serve as co-editor for the prestigious Journal of Modern Hellenism.

Before arriving at UMSL, Dr. Cosmopoulos had already published 21-refereed articles and/or field reports in prestigious archaeological journals and since his arrival he has added another 27 articles with more currently in-press. He has single-authored at least ten different chapters in edited books and has written at least three book reviews. He has been an active participant in national and international conferences where he has given over 29 different papers.

Also of importance is that he has organized six different conferences with various research themes at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Because of his international expertise, Dr. Cosmopoulos is a very requested reviewer of various manuscripts for Archaeological and Classical Journals. Perhaps, one of the most important contributions of his many research endeavors is that he has obtained \$1,631,610 solely for his research projects. More specifically, the amount that Dr. Cosmopoulos has accrued, so far during his tenure at UM-St. Louis, is \$1,216,750. It must be emphasized that this is purely external funding from top-tier foundations such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, National Geographic Society, and the National Science Foundation, just to name a few.

Years prior to the writing of this review Dr. Diane Touliatos-Miles had an opportunity to visit Greece on a research trip and had a unique opportunity to observe Dr. Cosmopoulos at work. Her observation is recorded and noted herewith:

*"I visited Dr. Cosmopoulos at his archaeological research site in Pylos and also had a chance to witness his study abroad program. As a musicologist, this was an eye-opening experience for me and I realized what different circumstances of research Michael undergoes as opposed to my simple research in manuscript archives. What I witnessed was a revelation. Because of the torturous heat of the Greek sun, Michael and his fellow archaeologists were up before 5am in the morning in order to work at the digs until 1 pm, when the sun becomes so very overbearing that they must stop. What I realized is that archaeology is not just a humanities discipline but also a scientific one. The rather*

*large dig was divided into various plots. Because there were several layers of historical significance, there was extreme care in how the various layers of digging took place and how the soil was sifted for the various finds. Even animal bones are important in the analyses of time and periods as well as the artifacts. It was self-evident that this is a demanding and very tedious discipline. There were other specialists by Michael's side that were working the digs and examining the most inconsequential minutiae for what could result in a major find. Even as an observer, I became very exhausted with the heat of the sun and detailed work that each member was involved. It should be noted that the many Cosmopoulos discoveries that have been found in Greece are housed within the Athens Archaeological Society, where Michael is the beloved favored son for his diligent surveys and excavations, which has brought honor to his homeland as well as newly found discoveries to the world.*

*After this grueling hard work of the morning, Michael and his crew of academics then teach courses to the students that have come from all parts of North America and even various parts of Europe to study under Michael's supervision. Many of these students were Graduate Students participating in Field Training."*

There are various research sites where Dr. Cosmopoulos has worked. More recently he has spent much of his time at the sites of Pylos, Oropos, Iklaina, and Eleusis, where he has made many phenomenal discoveries. Although there are too many finds to mention, one of the most recent unearthing's by Cosmopoulos was the oldest written record in Europe! This became a major news item that was published in many North American Newspapers and journals (New York Times, Los Angeles Times, National Geographic Society, etc.) as well as newspapers worldwide!!! This find has brought significant honor and acclaim to Dr. Cosmopoulos and also to the University of Missouri-St. Louis. This has also garnered Dr. Cosmopoulos documentary interviews on PBS and the History Channel.

More recently, Dr. Cosmopoulos is working with John Bredar, Senior Executive Producer of the National Geographic Specials. Bredar is planning to have three one-hour series for different periods of Ancient Greece in which the first hour will focus on the Minoans and the Mycenaeans and especially on language and Greek identity that will focus heavily on Dr. Cosmopoulos' most recent amazing discovery of Linear B Script, the oldest tablets in Europe. The second part will be on Classical Greece, and the third on Alexander the Great and the spread of Hellenism. This is a HUGE honor for Dr. Cosmopoulos and a wonderful showcase for the University of Missouri-St. Louis!!!

Because of Dr. Cosmopoulos' fame and expertise as an acclaimed archaeologist, he is often interviewed worldwide on radio and television stations. He is a featured National Lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America. He is also a recognized as an acclaimed "National Geographic Explorer!"

### TEACHING:

Despite a rigorous research agenda and accomplishments, Dr. Cosmopoulos continues to carry a full teaching load of 4 courses per academic year. His entire courses are spread across several departments and programs at UMSL. Though appointed to teach in the department of Anthropology, Dr. Cosmopoulos teaching and course offerings service Anthropology and Archaeology, Art and Art History, Greek Studies, Languages and Continuing Education. The courses he has offered and taught in the advancement of the interdisciplinary mission at UMSL include but are not limited to: Archaeological Theory/Methods, Greek Art and Archaeology (Art and Archaeology); Introduction to Modern Greek (Language); Ancient Greek Culture and Civilization, Greek History (History and Philosophy); The Greek and the Romans, Greek Elements in English (Continuing Education).

Although the Anthropology department at UMSL does not have a graduate program Dr. Cosmopoulos continues to supervise graduate thesis and field training in Anthropology for M.A and PhD students registered at elite research institutions such as the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill, University of Texas at Austin, University of Indiana, University of Sheffield in England, University of Leicester in England and University of Athens in Greece. These are clearly graduate students from elite institutions in both the USA and Europe.

In addition to teaching in the Anthropology department at UMSL, Dr. Cosmopoulos is Director of the Greek Studies Program at UMSL. The Greek Studies program now offers courses towards a Minor/Certificate in Greek Studies at UMSL that Dr. Cosmopoulos organized. In response to the UMSL community demand for a variety of Greek Studies courses, Dr. Cosmopoulos has applied for and received significant teaching grants from the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation in 2006 for the establishment of a teaching position in Modern Greek Language and Literature in the amount of \$135,000. The funding is being applied to the effective teaching of Modern Greek languages for the Greek Studies Program at UMSL.

In 2011 – 2012, Dr. Cosmopoulos won another 3-year \$180,000 grant from a Fundraising effort through Private donors with the goal of establishing a Teaching Assistant Professorship in Greek History. The position is currently active and services the Greek Studies Program at UMSL with courses such as ‘Hero’s and Heroism’; Modern Greek Culture’; and, “Greek Diaspora”.

Dr. Cosmopoulos currently runs two Study Abroad programs in Greece, which have been of tremendous benefit to both the Greek Studies Program and UMSL.

The first is the “Semester in Greece Program” in which enrolled students take courses in Athens and travel around Greece. The program boasts a wide international enrollment with students emanating from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Great Britain and the USA. It should be noted that these international students pay summer fees to UMSL and receive UMSL credit for courses completed with Dr. Cosmopoulos.

The second program abroad, is the "Archaeological Summer Field School", which enrolls over 80 students per year.

Also notable is Dr. Cosmopoulos organization of the "Missouri Consortium for an Academic Program in Greece". This consortium has the participation of 8 public universities in the State of Missouri.

#### OUTREACH:

Undoubtedly, one of the many successes of the Greek Endowed Professorship is its outreach effectiveness and its ability to keep strong roots and connections with the Greek community in Missouri. A major asset in this endeavor is the Greek Culture Center, (The Nicholas and Theodora Matsakis Hellenic Culture Center) located on the first floor of Lucas Hall at UMSL, and which is also administered by Dr. Cosmopoulos. The major achievement of this Center is that it has served as a major rallying point and nexus between the University and the Community. Out of this Center Dr. Cosmopoulos has also raised substantial funding for events. On record is funding that he has secured from "Friends of the Matsakis family" \$35,000 in 2010; the "Ministry of Tourism in Greece" \$20,000 in 2007, and the "Ministry of Education in Greece" \$102,000 in 2006-2008.

The Center on campus is resplendent with an exquisite collection of Greek Artifacts, which attracts quite a number of visitors. Additionally, the Center offers a series of Public lectures as well as a Performing arts series, which emanates from the Center for International Studies at UMSL.

Of significance is Dr. Cosmopoulos service as a national lecturer affiliated with the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), which a membership of 10,000 individuals and a 100 local societies.

In conclusion, Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos has brought worldwide recognition to the University of Missouri system with his many discoveries, which are documented, in his publications. Although he is still a very young man he could very well be THE twenty-first century "Heinrich Schliemann," the renowned nineteenth-century archaeologist. Dr. Cosmopoulos more than deserves to continue as an "Endowed Professor." The University of Missouri is most fortunate to have him as a faculty member. The Cosmopoulos family is one of intellectuals that the Greek community of our region loves and adores with a passion! Because of Dr. Cosmopoulos' many outreach programs to the community, there are people that have set foot at the UM-St. Louis campus that may never have even thought about coming! With Dr. Cosmopoulos as the head of Greek Studies at UM-St. Louis, we are confident that the best is yet to come from this brilliant, young, hard-working scholar.

Submitted by:

Dr. Diane Touliatos-Miles, Curators Professor and Director, Center for the Humanities  
Dr. 'Niyi Coker, Jr., E. Desmond Lee Professor in African/African-American Studies