



The University of New Mexico

**SENATE GRADUATE &
PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE**

Claudia B. Isaac, Chair

cisaac@unm.edu

DATE: March 25, 2010

TO: Operations Committee of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Claudia B. Isaac, Ph.D., Chair *Claudia Isaac/CEB*
Senate Graduate & Professional Committee

RE: Posthumous Degree

At its March 25, 2010 meeting the Senate Graduate & Professional Committee voted to approve a request to grant a posthumous degree to Stefania Gray (100030835). Please see the attached memo from Natasha Kolchevska, Chair, Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, detailing this request for Ms. Gray.

The Senate Graduate & Professional Committee's approval is based primarily on the two conditions specified in the faculty handbook relative to the granting of posthumous degrees. Ms. Gray had completed the coursework required for the degree and was scheduled to defend her thesis; her academic record is in good standing. Therefore, we request that the Faculty Senate support the awarding of a posthumous Master of Arts in Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies to Stefania Gray. We also request that this item be put on the Senate's agenda at the earliest convenience. The Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures is concerned on behalf of Ms. Gray's family that this situation be resolved in time for Spring 2010 Commencement.

Thank you.

Attachment



Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2010

Graduate Office
University of New Mexico

15 March 2010

TO: Dr. Amy Wohler
Dean, Office of Graduate Studies

FROM: Natasha Kolchevska, Chair, Dept. of FLL

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Natasha Kolchevska", is written over the "FROM:" line.

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO AWARD POSTHUMOUS DEGREE

On behalf of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, I am requesting that the degree of Master of Arts in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies be awarded posthumously to Stefania Gray. Stefania was a student in good standing and on the verge of completing all of her requirements—including a thesis—for the MA when she passed away on March 8, 2010. She had turned in a final draft of her thesis the week before and was scheduled to defend the thesis on March 22. The members of her MA committee—Professors Raji Vallury (FLL), director; Mary Quinn (S&P); and Janet Cramer (C&J)—all agree that she would have passed that defense with absolutely no difficulty. At the time of her death, Stefania had completed all of her course requirements and was taking only thesis hours.

I join my colleagues in strongly endorsing this request and hope that you will agree that this is an appropriate action to take.