

Dr. Carlos Araya Leandro
Rector
University of Costa Rica

Dear Mr. Rector:

The undersigned express our concern about the proposal to exclude the courses on India from the mandatory courses of the Bachelor's and Licentiate's Degree in Classical Philology at the University of Costa Rica. Historically, this program has been dedicated to the study of three classical cultures—namely, Greece, Rome, and India—from the perspectives of language, literature, and mythology. However, the current proposal excludes India, relegating the study of its language, literature, and mythology to the list of elective courses. We believe that such a decision is counterproductive and neglects a tradition of teaching about India that is almost unique in Latin America. At the University of Costa Rica, this tradition dates to 1968 and to Dr. Hilda Chen-Apuy, whose work was even recognized by the University Council when it awarded her the “Rodrigo Facio Brenes” Prize in 2008, the highest award conferred by this institution. The following is a translated excerpt from the Minutes of the Solemn Session No. 5280:

“[For professor Chen-Apuy] Her quest to understand cultural diversity as part of the Costa Rican and human heritage has been clear, having introduced studies on Asian cultures into the curricula of various university programs and widely disseminating these studies at conferences and other media. She shared her knowledge of Asian cultures with the country, in her desire to serve as a bridge between two worldviews about the same world: the universe, humanity, and life. To this end, she provided us with her tools: perseverance, selfless dedication, constant reflection, and acceptance of humanistic ideals” (p. 9)

For the above reasons, we respectfully request that this proposal be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE
ACADEMIC DEGREE AND NAME
INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION
EMAIL

Cc. University Council
Vice-Rector's Office for Teaching
School of Philology, Linguistics, and Literature
Philology Student Association