



December 21, 2015

Dear Dr. Jacobus A. Naudé:

Thank you very much for the Renewal Proposal for **Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew** and your response to the committee's letter of October 19, 2015. Appreciated in particular have been your patient explanation of the relationship between linguistics and philology and the objective of the linguistics unit in this light.

The delay in responding to your application for renewal was mainly caused by the committee's deliberations about this relationship. You detail many of the individual aspects of the two disciplines that are the same, while indicating certain differences in focus. You note that "the object of linguistic study is language (and languages); the object of philology is making sense of texts." Since the program unit's second main goal is to further biblical exegesis, however, we see that some of the two groups' central goals are indeed intimately related. We believe that more interaction could enrich both pursuits. Our extended deliberations may indicate that Linguistics should explore in more detail and with more energy a possible collaboration if not a merger with Philology. The committee is increasingly aware of the fragmentation of the program, moreover, which members have cited as a detriment to their work and an obstacle to collaboration.

Should you decide against a closer collaboration with philology, the AMPC would suggest that you continue your work as a seminar. Seminars involve long-range collaborative research topics that require active participation and well-defined agendas. Unit chairs collect papers before meetings and distribute them to a defined participant group. Presentations are summarized and discussed—papers are not read—during seminar sessions.

Sincerely and on behalf of the Committee,

Anselm C. Hagedorn  
Chair, Annual Meeting Program Committee

Charles G. Haws  
Director of Programs