



Republika e Kosovës

Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo

Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim

Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju



Kosovo Accreditation Agency

***UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA “HASAN PRISHTINA”
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY
ORIENTALISTICS: ORIENTAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES /
MA***

ACCREDITATION

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM



Republika e Kosovës
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Kosovo Accreditation Agency

June 21, 2019, Zagreb



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1.Context.....	4
1.2.Site visit schedule.....	5
1.3.A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation.....	6
2. PROGRAM EVALUATION.....	7
2.1.Mission, objectives and administration.....	7
2.2.Quality management.....	9
2.3.Academic staff.....	11
2.4.Educational process content.....	13
2.5.Students.....	16
2.6.Research.....	18
2.7.Infrastructure and resources.....	20
3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET.....	22

3



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 28 MAY 2019

Expert Team (ET) members:

- Prof. Dr. THOMAS BAUER
- Assist. Prof. Dr. BARBARA KEROVEC
- Assist. Prof. Dr. VJERAN KURSAR
- Prof. Dr. ANIDA KISI

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- Avni Gashi, Acting Director of KAA
- Shkelzen Gerxhaliu, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring
- Arianit Krasniqi, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Accreditation

Sources of information for the Report:

- Self-Evaluation Report (SER) submitted by University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, Faculty of Philology
- Information obtained during the site visit
- Meetings conducted with the management of the institution, teaching and administrative staff, students, graduates, and external stakeholders and employers of graduates



- Annex: Study Programme: Master of Oriental Cultural Studies
- Annex: Plan for implementation of recommendation: Oriental Cultural Studies
- Annex: Academic staff scientific work: Orientalistics Department
- Annex: CVs of the staff (8)
- Annex: Syllabi (14 courses)

Criteria used for program evaluation:

- KAA Accreditation Manual

1.2. Site visit schedule

27 May

19.45 - Meeting at the Reception of the Hotel

20.00 - Working Dinner

28 May

08.40 - Meeting at the reception of the hotel

09.00-09.30 - Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated



09.35-10.35 - Meeting with the heads of the study programme

10.40-11.10 - Meeting with quality assurance representatives

11.10-12.15 - Lunch break

12.20-13.00 - Meeting with involved teaching and administrative staff

13.00-13.40 - Meeting with students and graduates

13.40-14.20 - Meeting with external stakeholders

14.20-14.50 - Visiting tour of the facilities and infrastructure (used for the implementation of the programme)

15.00-15.15 - Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and programme

Notes: Working dinner with experts and representatives of KAA, which was planned for 20.00 o'clock on the 27th of May 2019, was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The meeting was rearranged at 08.00 o'clock on the next day at the KAA office.

Meeting with students was not held due to the fact that there are no students of the new MA program of Oriental Cultural Studies yet.

1.3. A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation

The Faculty of Philology (hereinafter: Faculty) started to function as an independent, separate institution in 1989 (based on the Law for the establishment of the Faculty of Philology in Prishtina no. 011-83/88, in Prishtina on the 22th of December 1988.), although it has much longer tradition which goes back to the year of 1960, when the Program of Albanian Language and Literature and the Program of Serbo-Croatian Language and Yugoslav Literature were

6



established within what was then Faculty of Philosophy. Today the Faculty operates within the UP and has 8 departments: Department of Albanian Language, Department of Albanian Literature, Department of English Language and Literature, Department of French Language and Literature, Department of Orientalistics, Department of Turkish Language and Literature, Department of German Language and Literature, and Department of Journalism. Apart from basic studies, it also has two PhD programs: Linguistics and Literature. The Faculty thus provides study programs in the field of philological sciences, teaching and studying foreign languages, literatures and cultures, as well as journalism.

As stated in the SER, the mission and objectives of the Faculty are in compliance with those determined by the UP and all the programs offered by the Faculty have been drafted based on UP leadership principles, important strategic documents and current regulations (<https://www.uni-pr.edu/inc/doc/PLANI-STRATEGJIK1.pdf>).

The basic principles of the Faculty are mainly defined according to the aim of focusing on the development of young people in the field of humanities and communication sciences (journalism), as well as on the development of professionals such as lecturers of Albanian and foreign languages, translators / interpreters and philologists in various scientific disciplines for the needs of society and its institutions.

The Department of Orientalistics, founded in 1973, operates within the Faculty of Philology. So far it has offered only BA studies. In 2013, the Department of Oriental Studies proposed an MA program which was not accredited by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency.

2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

According to the SER, the Faculty operates in complete accordance with the UP Statute and Administrative guidelines. The Department of Orientalistics compiles the one-year Master Program of Oriental Cultural Studies (60 ECTS), which aims to deepen and advance the



knowledge and research capabilities gained during basic bachelor studies with 240 ECTS. The program will apply the newest theories and methodologies of cultural and critical studies. The programme's courses have an interdisciplinary character and will be conducted on the latest theories and methodologies of critical and cultural studies, and offer a new approach in the field of Oriental studies, in collaboration with experts from other fields, such as ethnology, literature, and history. The program tends to enable students to continue their studies in the further cycle, doctoral studies.

Table 1. Compliance with the standards required by the KAA Accreditation manual in the area Mission, objectives and administration

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.	X	
Standard 1.2. Relevant academic and professional advice is considered when defining the intended learning outcomes which are consistent with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.	X	
Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.	X	
Standard 1.4. There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.	X	
Standard 1.5. All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.	X	



Standard 1.6. All policies, regulations, terms of reference and statements of responsibility relating to the management and delivery of the program are reviewed at least once every two years and amended as required in the light of changing circumstances.	X	
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Compliance level: Fully compliant 100%

ET recommendations:

1. According to the external stakeholders, Prof. Dr. Hysen Matoshi (Institute of Albanology) and Dr. Hatixhe Ahmedi (State Archive of Kosovo), one of the main interest of their respective institutions is the graduates ability to analyze, read and translate historical Ottoman texts and documents concerning the history of Kosovo and the region. Therefore, I recommend the department to include analysis and work on Ottoman historical texts and documents among the priorities of the outcomes of the programme. According to the response of the Department from June 18, 2019, this recommendation was accepted and “Ottoman Texts and Documents” class was added to the program.

2.2. Quality management

Although survey data is being regularly collected from students, graduates and employers, the results of electronic questionnaires for students organized at the level of the UP are not made publicly available. According to the information obtained from the SER and the meetings with the heads of the faculty and the teaching staff during the site-visit, the results are available only to the Faculty management and eventually to the heads of the departments. During the meeting of the ET with with representatives of the Faculty, the need to find a better self-evaluation mechanism, more credible and efficient was discussed and confirmed. In this respect, the Faculty representatives confirmed



their resolution to solve the problem and make the results of the surveys publicly available in near future.

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 2.1. All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.	X	
Standard 2.2. Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.	X	
Standard 2.3. Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of program planning and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.	X	
Standard 2.4. Quality evaluations provide an overview of quality issues for the overall program as well as of different components within it; the evaluations consider inputs, processes and outputs, with particular attention given to learning outcomes for students.	X	
Standard 2.5. Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.	X	
Standard 2.6. Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.		X
Standard 2.7. Results of the internal quality assurance system are taken into account for further development of the study program. This includes evaluation results, investigation of the student workload, academic success and employment of graduates.	X	
Standard 2.8. The institution ensures that reports on the overall quality of the program are prepared periodically (eg. every three years) for consideration within the institution indicating its strengths and weaknesses.	x	

10



Standard 2.9. The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.	X	
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Compliance level: Substantially compliant - 89%

ET recommendations:

1. The results of the student questionnaires should be made publicly available to staff.

2.3. Academic staff

The Oriental Cultural Studies MA programme includes staff not only from the Department of Orientalistics, but several teachers from Departments of Turkish Studies, Albanian Language, Albanian Literature and German language and literature of the Faculty of Philology as well. In addition, two teachers outside the Faculty of Philology, coming from Faculty of Philosophy and Institute of Albanology are included in the program as well. Such a situation is an outcome of the interdisciplinary character of the program itself. Two doctoral students of the Department of Orientalistics are supposed to obtain their PhD degree in the near future (i.e., during 2019). On the other hand, as one of the main challenges the SER underlines difficulties that prevent staff from full and free academic mobility: visa problems when traveling to the western countries, as well as political turmoils and wars in some countries of the Middle East. On the other hand, the Department has stable and solid contacts and collaboration with Turkey and its universities and scientific and cultural institutions. Such contacts and collaboration are established with Iran as well, although on somewhat lower level.

	Compliance
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<i>Standard</i>	Yes	No
Standard 3.1. Candidates for employment are provided with full position descriptions and conditions of employment. To be presented in tabular form data about full time (FT) and part time (PT) academic/ artistic staff, such as: name, qualification, academic title, duration of official (valid) contract, workload for teaching, exams, consulting, administrative activities, research, etc. for the study program under evaluation.	X	
Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation.	X	
Standard 3.3. Academic staff do not cover, within an academic year, more than two teaching positions (one full-time, one part-time), regardless of the educational institution where they carry out their activity.	X	
Standard 3.4. At least 50% of the academic staff in the study program are full time employees, and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study program.	X	
Standard 3.5. For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.	X	
Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties	X	
3.7. The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.	X	



Standard 3.8. Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through selfevaluation, students, peer and superiors' evaluations, and occur on a formal basis at least once each year. The results of the evaluation are made publicly available	X	
Standard 3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.	X	
Standard 3.10. Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.	Not applicable	

Compliance level: Fully compliant - 100%

ET recommendations:

None.

2.4. Educational process content

While the syllabi of the courses testify the existence of balanced and multi- and interdisciplinary programme, standards 4.1. and 4.3. seem to be, by mistake that occurred during the translation of the Albanian original to English, as told to the ET by the programme creators during the meeting, a copy of the BA programme. Despite the request during the meeting, the correct translation was not submitted yet.

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No



Standard 4.1. The study program is modeled on qualification objectives. These include subject-related and interdisciplinary aspects as well as the acquisition of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies. The aspects refer especially to academic or artistic competencies, to the capability of taking up adequate employment, contributing to the civil society and of developing the students' personality.		X
Standard 4.2. The study program complies with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area. The individual components of the program are combined in a way to best achieve the specified qualification objectives and provide for adequate forms of teaching and learning.	X	
Standard 4.3. The disciplines within the curriculum are provided in a logical flow and meet the definition and precise determination of the general and specific competencies, as well as the compatibility with the study programs and curricula delivered in the EHEA. To be listed at least 7 learning outcomes for the study program under evaluation.		X
Standard 4.4. The disciplines within the curriculum have analytical syllabuses which comprise at least the following: the discipline's objectives, the basic thematic content, learning outcomes, the distribution of classes, seminars and applicative activities, students' assessment system, the minimal bibliography, etc. The full course description/ syllabuses of each subject/ module should be attached only in electronic form to the self-assessment report for the study program under evaluation.	X	
Standard 4.5. If the language of instruction is other than Albanian, actions are taken to ensure that language skills of both students and academic staff are adequate for instruction in that language when students begin their studies. This may be done through language training prior to the commencement of the program.	X	
Standard 4.6. The student-teacher relationship is a partnership in which each assumes the responsibility of reaching the learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students from the perspective of their relevance to the students' development.	X	



Standard 4.7. Teaching strategies are fit for the different types of learning outcomes programs are intended to develop. Strategies of teaching and assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.	X	
Standard 4.8. Student assessment mechanisms are conducted fairly and objectively, are appropriate for the different forms of learning sought and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of courses.	X	
Standard 4.9. Appropriate, valid and reliable mechanisms are used for verifying standards of student achievement. The standard of work required for different grades is consistent over time, comparable in courses offered within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions.	X	
Standard 4.10. Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or inconsistently assessed.	X	
Standard 4.11. If the study program includes practice stages, the intended student learning outcomes are clearly specified and effective processes are followed to ensure that those learning outcomes and the strategies to develop that learning are understood by students. The practice stages are allocated ETCS credits and the work of the students at the practical training organisations is monitored through activity reports; students during practice stages have assigned tutors among the academic staff in the study program.	X	
Standard 4.12. In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organizations/practical training units.	X	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant - 83%

15



ET recommendations:

1. Standards 4.1. and 4.3. should be corrected according to the MA programme and the existing courses and syllabi. According to the response of the Department from June 18, 2019, this recommendation was accepted and standards 4.1. and 4.3. were corrected accordingly.
2. In addition to the possibility of future inclusion of post-colonial studies into the programme which is mentioned in the SER, I recommend inclusion of more history classes as well. According to the response of the Department from June 18, 2019, the number of history classes will be increased when an expert teacher becomes available.

2.5. Students

15 students are planned to enrol every year in the Master Programme of Oriental Cultural Studies. The number of students is mistakenly given as 30 in standard 5.3., as confirmed by the staff during the meetings. The number of students enrolled (15) will meet the needs of the labour market. According to the information from the SER, as well as acquired during the meeting, graduates of the BA programme of Oriental Studies (240 ECTS), as well as students from the fields such as Turkish Studies, History, Anthropology, Sociology, Literature, Islamic Studies, are likely candidates for the MA programme. The main outcomes of the program are two-fold: students will become experts in the field of Oriental Cultural Studies, as well as, focusing on the local level, specialists able to detect and analyze influences and traces of Oriental and Islamic culture and heritage in the context of Kosovo.

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No



Standard 5.1. There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when organizing students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.	X	
Standard 5.2. All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.	X	
Standard 5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.	X	
Standard 5.4. Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.	X	
Standard 5.5. The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.	X	
Standard 5.6. Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.	X	
Standard 5.7. Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.	X	
Standard 5.8. Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.	X	
Standard 5.9. Students' rights and obligations are made publicly available, promoted to all those concerned and enforced equitably; these will include the right to academic appeals.	X	
Standard 5.10. The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents	X	
Standard 5.11. Academic staff is available at sufficient scheduled times for consultation and advice to students. Adequate tutorial assistance is provided to ensure understanding and ability to apply learning.	X	



Compliance level: Fully compliant 100%

ET recommendations:

1. In addition to the broad and somewhat vague “Oriental” cultural influences, more concretely Ottoman historical influences and elements in culture should be taken into consideration as well. As pointed out by the stakeholders (see above), from their perspective, the Ottoman part of the Kosovo history, including reading and analysis of the Ottoman documents and texts, should be among the priorities.
2. In the standard 5.3., the number of students enrolled should be changed from 30 to 15, as mentioned later in the text, and confirmed during the meeting with the staff. According to the response of the Department from June 18, 2019, this was a mistake that is corrected.

2.6. Research

The staff of the department, in cooperation with external researchers, established the Institute for Oriental Studies as a non-governmental organization. It publishes the journal "Oriental Studies". The members of the department are members and associates of several institutes and scientific journals in Kosovo and abroad, such as: Center for Iranian Studies in Ankara, The Center for Iran, Balkan and Central European Studies in Bulgaria, Turkish International Language, Literature and Folklore Researches Journal, Pearl Magazine in Tirana and Islamic Education in Prishtina. The Department organized several scientific conferences and roundtables as well as book promotions.

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No



Standard 6.1. The study program has defined scientific/applied research objectives (on its own or as part of a research centre or interdisciplinary program), which are also reflected in the research development plan of the institution; sufficient financial, logistic and human resources are allocated for achieving the proposed research objectives.		X
Standard 6.2. Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are clearly specified, and performance in relation to these expectations is considered in staff evaluation and promotion criteria.	X	
Standard 6.3. Clear policies are established for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program.	X	
Standard 6.4. The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.	X	
Standard 6.5. The academic and research staff publish their work in speciality magazines or publishing houses, scientific/applied/artistic products are presented at conferences, sessions, symposiums, seminars etc. and contracts, expertise, consultancy, conventions, etc. are provided to partners inside the country and/or abroad.	X	
Standard 6.6. Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation.	X	
Standard 6.7. Each academic staff member and researcher has produced at least an average of one scientific/applied research publication or artistic outcome/product per year for the past three years.	X	
Standard 6.8. Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full time staff.	X	
Standard 6.9. Academic staff are encouraged to include in their teaching information about their research and scholarly activities that are relevant to courses they teach, together with other significant research developments in the field.	X	
Standard 6.10. Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.	X	



Standard 6.11. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.	X	
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Compliance level: Substantially compliant - 92.3%

ET recommendations:

No recommendations.

2.7. Infrastructure and resources

The basic infrastructural and operational expenses for the program are included in the budget of the University of Prishtina. The budget is determined by the Assembly of Kosovo with the Law on the Budget and dependent on the income that the institution generates. The building of the Faculty is partially renovated, but there are still many infrastructural aspects to be improved (basement problem with water leak, lack of an online software system and internal internet for free communication between staff and students, etc.). Nevertheless, the facilities of the Department Orientalistics are in solid conditions, in part due to help and donations from external stakeholders and institutions (mainly Turkish and Iranian embassies and cultural institutions).

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 7.1. The adequate long-term implementation of the study program is ensured in quantitative terms as regards premises, human resources and equipment. At the same time, it is guaranteed that qualitative aspects are also taken into account.	X	
Standard 7.2. There is a financial plan at the level of the study program that would demonstrate the sustainability of the study program for the next minimum three years.	X	



Standard 7.3. The higher education institution must demonstrate with adequate documents (property deeds, lease contracts, inventories, invoices etc.) that, for the study program submitted for evaluation it possesses the following, for the next at least three years: a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process; b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities; c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilization license; d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.	X	
Standard 7.4. The number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories must be related to the study groups' size (series, groups, subgroups); the applicative activities for the specialty disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.	X	
Standard 7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs: a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program; b) a number of seats in the group work rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program; c) their own book stock from Albanian and foreign specialty literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or specialty courses of recognized publishers, from the last 10 years; d) a book stock within its own library with a sufficient number of books so as to cover the needs of all students in the cycle and year of study the respective discipline is provided for; e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.	X	
Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.		X

Compliance level: Substantially compliant - 83.3%

ET recommendations:

21



None.

3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

The proposed Oriental Cultural Studies Program is a variant a regional studies based program, similar to Middle East Studies or Islamic Studies programs. However, it differs in the way that it analyzes, compares and contrasts Islamic and Middle Eastern culture(s) within the local context of Albanian and regional cultural and historical setting. In that respect, it is supposed to achieve the main goals of not only Islamic Studies or Middle East Studies in general, but also serve the needs of local community and Kosovo cultural and historical institutions. As mentioned in the SER, the program was modelled upon the examples of the programs of several different international universities, namely Bamberg in Germany, Groningen in Holland, Sabancı in Turkey, and Al'lamah Tabatabai in Iran. Its originality lays in the focus on the oriental and Islamic heritage of the Kosovo region and Albanian people.

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program Oriental Cultural Studies offered by the Department of Orientalistics, Faculty of Philology, University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" is *Substantially compliant* with the standards included in the *KAA Accreditation manual* and, therefore, recommends to *accredit* the study program for a duration of 3 years with a number of 15 students to be enrolled in the program.

Expert Team

Chair

Vjeran Kursar

June 21, 2019

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

22



Member

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member

(Signature)

(Print Name)

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