

HUNTER COLLEGE

of The City University of New York

Program in Religion • 695 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021 • (212) 772-4989

30 September 2004

Dr. Mohammad Geramian
Alavi Foundation
500 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10110

Dear Dr. Geramian:

I wanted to thank you again for your most generous support of Hunter's Program in Religion. On 17 December 2003, Hanieh Safakamal wrote us

Professor Sproul- You will be getting \$2,500 for the fall semester by the end of this week. The Foundation will make a payment of \$8,000 for the spring semester after April 2004. Thank you.
Hanieh Safakamal

so we looked forward to receiving this extra \$8,000 before the end of our semester on 19 May. Instead of the \$8000, however, we received \$3,000 which was wonderful in itself, but far short of what we had already spent last spring on Islam courses. I had to make up the \$5000 from other funds we had, and those funds remain in a deficit position.

This fall semester we are running another four courses concerning Islam: Islam and Buddhism; Sufism; Religion and Social Justice (using Islamic Law as the model in relation to which other religions are compared); and Western Religions (which deals with the three 'religions of the book'). Each of the courses is oversubscribed as always: they are theoretically closed when registration reaches 40 students, but each has more.

Again I have funded these courses entirely out of other grant money I had, but I have to 'pay back' those funds for this semester as well as last and I have no more to spend. What I am looking for then, is the \$5000 we presumed we had for last semester; \$6000 to cover two of the four courses we are giving this semester—if it is still your wish to fund half the Islam courses we offer; and some indication of whether you would like to continue to be involved in Hunter's Religion Program in Spring 2005. I had wanted to schedule two courses in Islam for next semester—Islam itself and Mysticism (taught by an Islamicist)—but I won't be able to do either if I haven't "paid back" our other funds in the next couple of weeks. There have been huge cut-backs at Hunter in all the interdisciplinary programs, and we have been running a full schedule only by funding half of it out of privately donated money. Without your

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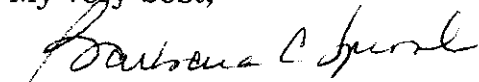
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funds—and a commitment for next semester by 15 October, I will have to cancel those Spring classes in Islam and several others whose cost I covered this semester and last on the Islam courses I thought you would fund.

We so appreciate your generous support of the Religion Program and all the assistance you have given us over the years. If this is the end of it, we would be terribly sorry but nonetheless enormously grateful for all you have done.

I look forward to hearing from you.

My very best,



Prof. Barbara C. Sproul
Director

Hanieh Safakamal

From: Barbara C. Sproul [bcsproul@rcn.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2004 12:40 PM
To: Hanieh Safakamal
Subject: grants for the Hunter Religion Program

Sent by mail as well:

Program in Religion
Hunter College
695 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10021

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