

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

March 22, 2007

Dr. Ali Aliabadi
The Alavi Foundation
500 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10110

Dear Dr. Aliabadi:

On behalf of my colleagues in the Portland State University Middle East Studies Center, please accept our sincere appreciation for the \$10,000 grant from the Alavi Foundation provided us during the current academic year 2006-2007. Together with the \$5,000 in matching funds provided by Portland State University, the Alavi Foundation grant enabled us to teach three classes about Iran. I am pleased to report that these classes were very successful, and we had 48 students enrolled in the Fall and Winter Term classes, plus a number of auditors. This was an average of 24 students per class, which is a very good number for country specific area courses related to the Middle East. We offered the following courses taught by Adjunct Professor Masoud Kheirabadi:

Fall Term Sociology 410/510: Iran through Films and Literature

Winter Term: Political Science 410/510: US-Iran Relations

Spring Term: Political Science 410/510: Religion, Society, and Politics in Iran

Again these classes have enabled us to introduce our students to the Persian language and Iranian culture and way of life. As was the case the previous year, several of the students who took or are taking these classes are of Iranian heritage, some of whom have never been in Iran. They are pleased to have the opportunity to learn about their cultural background, and, according to Dr. Kheirabadi, some have displayed an interest in learning the Persian language and visiting Iran for the first time. The community interest in these classes has increased. This year more people from the community audited these classes. According to Dr. Kheirabadi, they are fascinated by the richness of Iranian culture and the interesting class debates and discussions between Americans and Iranian students about various aspects of US-Iranian relations.

We continue to work hard to make Iranian studies an important part of our Middle East Studies program and generate more interest among our students about Iran and Iranians. I am pleased to report that these classes have been a major contribution to that effort. These classes have become a window to Iran and its cultural legacy. Through these classes students learn about

contemporary Iran as well as Iran's past glories. Once again, thank you for making this success possible for us. We would like to continue offering classes on Iran in the future, and we request a renewal of this year's grant of \$10,000 for the coming academic year 2007-2008. Once again, Portland State University is committed to provide an additional \$5,000 in matching funds to support three classes for the coming academic year.

A renewal of the grant for the coming academic year 2007-2008 would allow us to offer again the following three courses taught by Dr. Kheirabadi:

Fall Term Sociology 410/510: Iran through Film

Winter Term Political Science 410/510: US-Iran Relations

Spring Term Political Science 410/510: Religion and Politics in Iran

Dr. Kheirabadi continues to make a concerted effort to publicize his course offerings on Iran in order to ensure good enrollments. He uses fliers to publicize his three courses. He circulates the fliers to prospective students and post them on prominent display boards on the Portland State University campus.

In closing, on behalf of our Middle East Studies Center, I would like to thank the Alavi Foundation for the generous grant that allowed us to offer three courses on Iran this year. We are very pleased, again this year, with the student enrollment and overall success of these classes. Please let me know if you need further information to make a decision about the renewal of the grant. Thank you for your time and consideration. To expedite your review and approval process, I will fax this letter in addition to mailing the original copy. From our end, it would be quite helpful to receive the grant renewal this spring, if possible, to facilitate the budgeting process for next year's courses. The award check should be made out to **PSU Foundation** with some mention of **Persian/Iranian Studies** on the memo line if possible.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Damis
Director, Middle East Studies Center
Professor of Political Science