To: Unicode Technical Committee  
From: István Perczel (via Anshuman Pandey and Debbie Anderson, SEI, UC Berkeley)  
Date: 10 June 2015  
Title: Feedback on the Alphabetization of the Syriac letters for Garshuni (Suryani) Malayalam

Note: The following is input from István Perczel, an expert on Garshuni Malayalam. Anshuman Pandey, the author of the Syriac letters for Garshuni Malayalam proposal (L2/15-156), asked the question, “Is there a conventional sort order for the Garshuni Malayalam letters? For instance, where would they appear in a dictionary?” Below is the response.

This is an interesting and difficult question. There is no existing dictionary order. There are Syriac-Garshuni Malayalam dictionaries but not vice versa. So, theoretically, there are two options: either follow the dictionary order of the Modern Malayalam alphabet, or follow the Syriac and add the specifically Malayalam letters as an addition, in their order according to the present-day Malayalam script. As the same Syriac letters can stand for very different Malayalam sounds, I think only the second option is feasible. Thus, you might keep the order of the Syriac letters from olaf to taw (1-22) and then add the eleven new letters almost in the order you have cited them, but adding Modern Malayalam ഷ, SSA after the ര, RA, and before the ല, LLA. Otherwise the order seems to me perfect.