

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **May 2, 2012**

The Academic Programs Committee met on April 26 to review a new BA Program in Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS). In attendance were Committee members Annette Allen, Margo Smith, Jasmine Farrier, Virginia Brown and Don Demuth along with Connie Shumake and Julia Dietrich, Rhonda Buchanan, Bob Buchanan, and Dean Hudson from A&S. The committee was in general agreement that the proposal was very well written and that the BA in LALS represented an important and timely new degree program. Particular strengths are the interdisciplinary structure of the Program and its strong community engagement aspect. The already established community networks should not only help recruit students to the Program but also help place them in jobs after graduation. During the discussion, several suggestions arose to clarify the proposal prior to its presentation to the full Faculty Senate. These are listed below. The Committee voted to approve the degree Program pending a response to the points below.

1) Additional text should be added in the budget narrative sections describing the prior level of funding requested by the Faculty Senate to support the Graduate Certificate and how this facilitated the development of the new BA. Also mention the agreement between A&S and the University to provide support for LALS (new Faculty hires, etc). It will be very important for the Senate to see clearly how the new Program will be supported and that it will not adversely impact other Programs in the Dept or School.

2) It will be beneficial to state that the new degree Program will not affect or draw students away from other degree programs in the Departments that you collaborate with. In fact, you mentioned that this program may provide students with additional attractive options and choices for multiple major.

3) It might also be beneficial to list on page 8 some of the current areas of research that might be available for LALS students to participate in.

4) There was a question/concern from P&B about the number of hours required for a double major, see Appendix 8 for sample plans for a double major in LALS and Political Sciences. It appears that the completion of 1 additional hour (122 hours) versus the standard BA-LALS schedule (121 hours) can result in a double major; this is viewed as unusual and inadequate.

5) On page 27, the Selection Process is not defined, i.e., if all students that apply have a 2.0 and competency in either Portuguese or Spanish what will be the selection criteria.

6) Concerning the budget, Page 33: Head columns with year, i.e., 2012, 2013, etc; not 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, etc.

Page 34: Under "B" Breakdown of Budget Expenses/Requirements, Executive, Administrative, Managerial – Existing (A-12 Appointment) should be explained in terms of FTE with salary and benefits stated.

Page 35: Other Professional – Existing (2 LALS staff) and Faculty – Existing (CML Hire) should be explained in the terms of FTEs with salary and benefits stated.

7) Dean Fox's letter indicates the need for \$1,384/year but the budget allows for \$1,000/year; additionally, 7a Library Resources on page 18 is not in complete agreement with tone/facts of Dean Fox's letter nor the Evaluation of Library Resources Essential to the Support of Proposed BA in Latin American and Latino Studies by RD Porter and JE Manasco.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Demuth  
Chair, APC