

Executive Committee/Advisory Board Meeting, December 10, 2008

Members Present: Doris Kadish, Robert Moser, Sergio Quesada, Thom Whigham, Laura Shedenhelm, Nicolas Lucero, Milton Maciadri, Amy Ross, Glenn Ames, Wayne Parrott, Paul Duncan, Carolina Acosta Alzuru, Maria Navarro, Kathleen Schmaltz

1. Introductions were exchanged.
2. LACSI's website updates were announced. All core and affiliate faculty are now listed on the site along with a link to their website and electronic CV. Everyone should check to see if their own personal information and links are correct. Requests for corrections/changes should be emailed to Kathleen Schmaltz (schmaltz@uga.edu).
3. The Advisory Board chairman, Milton Maciadri, updated the group on the decision that the advisory board and Dean Stokes made with regard to LACSI's future leadership. The national search for a new director has been postponed, but will be conducted when financial resources become available. However, since LACSI wants to apply for a National Resource Grant (NRC) from the Department of Education next fall, it is in the unit's best interest to name a permanent director now. The advisory board and Dean Stokes agree that Doris Kadish has done a good job organizing the unit and preparing for the PRAC review. Doris has indicated that she is enjoying working with the LACSI staff and faculty and is willing to continue in the leadership role. As a result, it is likely that Doris Kadish will be named permanent director of LACSI. Both committees agreed to wait until Dean Stokes formally announces this appointment before discussing it with the faculty at large. Milton Maciadri is the point man for discussion on this issue, so questions or concerns on this matter should be addressed to him (mmasciad@uga.edu).
4. The plans for LACSI's NRC grant proposal were discussed. Key points included the following:
 - Doris has gotten advice on matters related to NRCs from a number of knowledgeable persons, including Professor Daniel Balderston at the University of Pittsburgh, who has extensive experience with NRCs. Based on the advice she has received, it seems advisable for LACSI to form a consortium with another university to apply for the grant. It also seems advisable for LACSI to partner with only one other institution to avoid the complexities involved in administering such a grant with multiple institutions. However, collaboration and events conducted with the NRC grant can certainly offer LACSI the opportunity to work with multiple universities.
 - Since there are several successful NRC consortia that pair public and private institutions (UNC/Duke; Notre Dame/Michigan), it seems like a good idea to pursue the possibility of partnering with Emory on such a venture. Strong points for this pairing include: the matched funds that Emory may be able to contribute, the in-kind contribution that UGA will contribute, complementary programmatic strengths that UGA and Emory share, and faculty contacts that are already established between Latin Americanist faculty in both institutions.
 - Doris Kadish has approached David Nugent, the director of Emory's Latin American & Caribbean Studies program, about partnering for a NRC grant. Dr. Nugent was very enthusiastic about the possibility of working with LACSI on this venture.
 - Dean Stokes is also very supportive of the effort by LACSI to apply for a NRC award. She has already allocated \$2,000 for Paul Duncan and Doris Kadish to travel to Washington, D. C. in January to review successful NRC grant proposals on file at the Department of Education. Dean Stokes has also expressed her willingness to try to elicit support from colleges across campus in an effort to acquire matching funds for the proposal. Receiving such college-wide support is a crucial component for receiving a NRC award.

- It was noted that Emory's former LACS director is now the head of their Jewish Institute, so Emory will likely be able to gain support for this venture from other units on campus as well.
 - After Doris and Paul review proposals in Washington and have a better idea of the elements and budget needed for our proposal, we can create a short list of what UGA will be able to gain from an NRC award. Then, ad hoc committees of faculty can be formed so that individuals can begin to develop ideas for how their discipline can be involved.
 - Finally, it was agreed that pursuing an NRC grant will benefit LACSI even if the grant is not awarded to us because it will strengthen ties between Emory and UGA, and going through the process would provide the foundation needed to apply for other grants like UISFL.
5. Duties of the Executive and Advisory board were iterated.
- Advisory Board is appointed by the dean and duties include:
 - a. Meeting at least once each semester to review and plan activities.
 - b. Advise LACSI's director.
 - c. Evaluate RFPs for Tinker and Exposition Foundation grants. (Note: LACSI received its final installment from the Exposition Foundation and currently has approximately \$17,000 in funding for faculty/student research. Paul Duncan is creating a RFP to use for awarding this money. There will be an announcement and request for proposals before the end of this semester.)
 - Executive Board is elected by the faculty and duties include:
 - a. Voting on hiring decisions recommended by the search committee.
 - b. Establish committees. (A curriculum committee will need to be established next semester based on volunteers.)
 - c. Serve as an appeals committee for grades or other matters.
 - d. Make decisions about LACS program & curriculum development recommended by the Curriculum Committee.
6. Members of the Executive and Advisory Board are required to serve 3 year staggered terms. After a discussion about how to implement the staggered terms, it was agreed that Doris Kadish will speak to Dean Stokes and come up with a plan to initiate this policy. It was agreed that staggered terms would not begin until after the transition period of AY 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Schmaltz