

**Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
8/27/09: 12:30 LACSI Meeting Room**

Agenda:

1. Bylaws
2. PRAC Review
3. Upcoming Events
4. Willson Center Activities
5. NRC update and new ideas

Present: Doris Kadish
Paul Duncan
Nicolas Lucero
Robert Moser
Paul Matthews
David Smilde
Kathleen Schmaltz

Meeting began at 12:30pm with welcome back remarks made by all.

Old Business:

- The committee reviewed the proposed changes to LACSI's bylaws that were made last year. Paul Matthews motioned to formally approve the changes, Kathleen Schmaltz seconded the motion, and the committee voted unanimously to accept the revisions. Kathleen will post the revised bylaws on LACSI's website.
- Doris informed the committee that her meeting with the provost and PRAC review team on August 4th was canceled and rescheduled for September 30th. The committee agreed that Doris should ask the college to commit to a new position to help administer the NRC grant and revisit Dean Stokes' existing commitment to pursue a national search for a new director.
- Paul noted that LACSI's annual Open House will take place on September 18th to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month. Again, all of HHM activities taking place over the course of this month will be posted on our website and published in poster form for distribution around campus.
- The committee discussed Willson Center activities that are in the works for this fall. The first roundtable titled, "Ethnicity, Identity, and Race in Latin America and the Caribbean" and an afternoon lecture by Jeffrey Lesser are scheduled for October 5th. In an effort to build a working faculty group, everyone agreed that personal invitations to interested UGA and Emory faculty should be extended for this first roundtable. October 5th activities will also be publicized and Kathleen will register Jeffrey Lesser's afternoon lecture as a Blue Card event to help build an audience of undergraduate students. Doris will continue working on the second roundtable topic and panel.

- Doris provided an update on NRC activities that have taken place this fall including:
 - Acquiring time from a graduate assistant funded by Franklin College to assist with grant proposals
 - Meetings with the professional schools at both UGA and Emory to establish connections and see where we might be able to tie into their programs with grant activities.
 - Library data collection including information from the law library and the Peabody collection.
 - Work on the technology component that includes distance learning for Portuguese and construction of an interactive website.
- Items to be explored in the near future for the NRC proposal are:
 - Helping with writing the narrative.
 - Funding medical Spanish. (UGAs vet school conducts a spay/neuter program in Latin America and they may also be interested in such a course or Spanish immersion classes.)
 - Establishing contacts with the CDC
 - Making contact with Georgia Tech's CIBER for international businesses.
 - Funding policy conferences. David Smilde mentioned his contact at the Carter Center, Jennifer McCoy, director of the Americas programs. They focus on mediation and conflict resolution for threatened democracies.
 - Robert Moser suggested contacting B. Carter from Spellman who received a USDEd grant to work with Georgia's Democracy in the Americas program placing students in Latin American countries with developing democracies. Spellman may wish to tap into our PORT distance learning courses for these students.
 - Paul Matthews suggested contacting Lee Becker and/or Tudor Vlad in journalism who work with the role of media in democratization and media training programs designed to further democratization.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kathleen Schmaltz