

Curriculum Committee Meeting, April 15, 2009

Members Present: Sergio Quesada, Paul Duncan, Leara Rhodes, Mark Anderson, Susan Thomas, Silvia Giraudo, Kathleen Schmaltz

1. The committee completed its review of the current LACS curriculum and would like to make two final recommendations to the executive committee:
 - a. In addition to the current recommendation for Area VI requirements, (LACS2001, LACS2002, HIST2221, HIST2222, and an introductory course in a second L.A. or Caribbean language) the committee recommends that undergraduate majors be allowed to choose one of the following courses:
ROML2550
SPAN2550
GEOG1101
 - b. The committee also recommends moving GEOG4720 to the track and increasing the track requirement to 9 courses (27 hours).
2. Committee members reviewed the current capstone course requirement and purpose of the course. Points that were discussed included:
 - a. Difficulties encountered with scheduling since the course is only offered once a year and students are currently required to take it during their senior year.
 - b. Thom Whigham's flexibility and willingness to work with LACSI for the past two years to provide instruction for the course.
 - c. The need to include some kind of portfolio or senior project as part of the course requirements in order to comply with the assessment plan that LACSI developed for the PRAC review.
 - d. Advantages/disadvantages of providing the opportunity for other faculty members to teach the course.

It was agreed that LACSI faculty should be given the opportunity to become the capstone instructor. The committee will revisit the implementation of a portfolio and/or project as part of the capstone course in the fall.
3. Sample syllabi for Intro. to Latin American & Caribbean Studies courses were distributed. Committee members will create a list of topics and course objectives that they believe should be used in the development of our own introductory course. These topics and objectives will be sent to Kathleen on April 29th. She will assemble a master list of topics and objectives for the committee to work with in the fall in the creation of LACSI's intro. course.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Schmaltz