

Curriculum Committee Meeting, March 18, 2009

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

1. After an examination of interdisciplinary LACS programs provided by Leara Rhodes and a review of the Track component required for UGA's LACS majors, the committee decided to keep the three existing Track divisions in place.
2. The committee agreed to make a formal recommendation to the executive board to require LACS majors to take courses within their chosen track from at least 2 different departments and to complete at least 25% of their Track classes (6 credits) from a second track. This decision is based upon the committee's desire to promote the interdisciplinary nature of the LACS major.
3. The committee reviewed course descriptions for introductory LACS courses from other programs. The general consensus is that it would be beneficial to develop such a course to include in LACSI's undergraduate program.
4. After an examination of the language requirements the committee would also like to formally recommend to the executive board that the 2000 level language requirement for a major language be removed from the curriculum. This requirement is automatically met as students prepare to take the required upper division language courses.
5. Since it was agreed that the 2000 level language requirement should be eliminated, the committee discussed options for courses that could be substituted in Area F and serve as gateway courses to the major. Points that were made in this discussion include:
  - a. It might be a good idea to provide some choice of coursework in Area F.
  - b. ROML2550 and SPAN2550 (Latino Language and Culture) are currently inappropriately placed in the track with upper division courses. These courses are very appropriate for the major and should remain in the curriculum. A more appropriate placement would be in Area F.
  - c. GEOG1101 (Human Geography: People, Places, and Cultures) should be considered as an option for Area F because a significant portion of the curriculum addresses the development of colonialism and capitalism, and the key role of Latin America in the world-system.
  - d. If GEOG1101 is offered as an option in Area F, then it might not be necessary to require GEOG4720 (Geography of Latin America). This course could be moved to the Track and selected as an option.
  - e. There was some discussion of the degree to which a new introductory course might also meet some needs in the area of knowledge of Latin American geography.