

**Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
4/29/09: 10:00 LACSI Meeting Room**

**Agenda:**

Updates

1. Reports: Paul, Kathleen, Maria Navarro
2. Ethno botanical Garden Advisory Committee
3. Advisory Board
4. Process for bylaws changes for next year
5. Agenda for curriculum for next year
6. Other items for next year
  1. Listserv
  2. Willson Center
7. NRC
  - a. Emory changes and developments
  - b. Sarah Brackmann
  - c. PI
  - d. Quechua/Creole
  - e. Portuguese plans, Cobb County
  - f. ACTFL, Spanish and Portuguese

**Present:** Paul Duncan  
Doris Kadish  
Betina Kaplan  
Maria Navarro  
Paul Matthews  
Kathleen Schmaltz

**Meeting began at 10:00am with congratulations to Maria Navarro for receiving her USDA grant.**

**New Business:**

- LACSI would like to obtain a copy of Maria's grant to see how we might be able to tie in with the grant.
- Paul announced that the survival Spanish course conducted by LACSI for Ag Extension Agents and the Coile Middle School cultural identity project are near completion. LACSI earned \$2500 for teaching the Spanish course, which will be used to hire a graduate student to work on data collection for the NRC proposal over the summer. LACSI has also established an ethnobotanical advisory board: James Affolter (chair), Paul Duncan, Virginia Nazarea, Julie Valazquez Runk, Fausto Sarmiento, and Dexter Adams. Doris will charge this board with reviewing every aspect of the ethnobotanical garden and prioritizing its needs for the future.
- Kathleen reported that the curriculum committee has submitted all of the approved changes for the undergraduate major to the bulletin. Curriculum

Committee members are currently working on objectives and topics for the new Introduction to Latin America course. And, the curriculum committee recommends that LACSI should provide the opportunity for other Latin Americanist faculty members to teach the LACS capstone course.

- Paul Matthews informed the committee about a new horticulture course called, Understanding the Latino Community through Horticulture that will be taught next spring. The course has a specialized language component to help students communicate with Latinos they meet when they begin working in the field. The board noted that there is a demand for courses like this with a Spanish for special purposes language requirement in many departments across campus.
- The advisory board met to address concerns about its purpose and function that were expressed in the PRAC report. The board prefers to remain intact in order to give advice on the big picture and long range planning. They will begin rotating members off of the board.
- Changes in the bylaws will in the future be made by the entire LACSI faculty based on recommendations of the executive committee. The faculty will vote on the recommendations using our online voting system.
- NRC updates:
  - Paul and Doris are meeting with representatives from Emory next Thursday (May 7) to discuss changes at Emory and how best to proceed with the NRC grant proposal as a result of those changes.
  - Due to budget cuts, the LAS support person at Emory has been laid off. In addition, the director of the program, David Nugent, may relinquish his post. As a result, both units feel it is best to name Doris as the PI for the NRC grant and have LACSI administer the grant if it is awarded.
  - Doris has met with the Portuguese faculty regarding the NRC proposal and is confident that the Portuguese component will be a strong point for the grant. One idea that Doris suggested for increasing enrollment in Portuguese courses is to allow students from other universities to participate in UGA Portuguese courses virtually. Maria Navarro's department has done this in the past and will be able to help us connect with people who can assist us.
  - Since Doris has an extensive background with Haitian Creole, and we have not been able to connect with anyone to help create a Quechuan program for the grant, Doris suggested using Creole as a LCTL for the grant rather than Quechua. Paul voiced his concern about the possibility of this choice weakening our proposal since the nearby University of Florida has an established Creole program. Doris will contact the DOEd to see how our proposal would be affected if we make such a choice.
  - The American Council for Teaching Foreign Language (ACTFL) has a program to train examiners to test and certify a person's ability to speak and understand a foreign language. This is a component that we might want to include in the grant for Spanish and Portuguese to use with courses that teach special language abilities for teachers, business, etc.
  - The direction on some aspects of the grant may change after Paul and Doris meet with Emory, but for the time being we can continue to work on the library component, data collection, and Portuguese.

- Doris asked the committee what they thought of using the book, *Open Veins of Latin America* as part of the Willson Grant series next year. Everyone agreed that it may stimulate interest. It was also suggested that another text like, *Born in Blood and Fire*, could be used for comparison. A question that could be addressed with such texts might be, What are our ideologies in approaching Latin America?

Respectfully submitted by  
Kathleen Schmaltz