

Executive Board Meeting, December 4, 2008

Members Present: Doris Kadish, Paul Duncan, Maria Navarro, Paul Matthews, David Smilde, Nicolas Lucero, Robert Moser, Kathleen Schmaltz

1. Introductions were exchanged.
2. The status of LACSI's leadership was discussed. Associate Dean Fallows has informed Doris that he met with LACSI's advisory board and Dean Stokes to discuss this matter. Dean Stokes will make a formal announcement regarding the decision she and the advisory board came to regarding LACSI's leadership.
3. The purpose and status of LACSI's program review were discussed. All units on campus must be reviewed every seven years and this year it is LACSI's turn. LACSI's self-assessment report was completed and submitted to the review team by September 30th. The next step in the process is for the review team to read the report and conduct interviews with LACSI stakeholders to learn more about the unit so they can write the PRAC report that will be submitted to the Provost. The review team has requested that the executive committee respond in writing to a series of questions that will assist them with the construction of their PRAC report on the unit. Susan Quinlan, the review team leader, has indicated that the team has read LACSI's self-assessment report and is committed to making a strong case for increased support for LACSI in the PRAC report. It is hoped that eventually LACSI will be able to gain enough support to begin earning EFT like other similar units on campus.
4. It was noted that LACSI's Department of Education's, Undergraduate International Studies & Foreign Language (UISFL) grant has ended. The UISFL grant administrator, Christine Corey, has encouraged LACSI to apply for a DOE National Resource Center (NRC) grant. LACSI has aspired to become a NRC for some time. In fact, it was hoped that a national search might bring a new director to LACSI with the credentials to help us acquire this prestigious award. NRC applications are due in November of 2009. Since this grant is only awarded once every four years, LACSI has decided to submit an application even though the status of the search for a new director is uncertain. Doris has been in contact with the director of the Latin American & Caribbean Studies unit at Emory University, David Nugent (an anthropologist), who is anxious to team with LACSI on this effort. The idea of pairing with Emory deserves serious consideration. Dean Stokes has committed funds for Paul Duncan and Doris Kadish to travel to Washington, D. C. in early January in order to review successful awards. Those awards are only available for viewing on site.
5. The committee brainstormed ideas to address 3 of the questions provided by the review committee:

Question #1

What are the priorities for teaching, research, and outreach for LACSI? Steps (in order)

**List the unit's goals for each of teaching, research, and outreach.*

**List concrete actions that move the unit towards reaching those goals.*

**Rank the activities in order of importance to the program within each of the three areas.*

**Identify the resources that are minimally needed to undertake the activity.*

Ideas:

Related to teaching:

- Development of a LACS minor and Graduate Certificate (in the PRAC report)
- Need for a Latin American area studies graduate level course for a certificate program. (Mark Anderson is creating an undergraduate course for the new Iberian Portuguese major that might be useful as a model for such a graduate course.) The course would provide broad coverage of issues in socio-cultural construction.
- Teaching gaps are a problem for LACS majors. Courses needed for the major are not always being offered or made available to LACS students. LACSI is currently trying to get departments to cross list courses and provide seats to LACS majors.

- Opportunities to promote LACS as a double major with complementary majors need to be created and/or taken advantage of.

Related to Research:

- Conduct major conferences that result in published papers/proceedings.
- Serve as clearinghouse for UGA faculty to work together writing grants in different disciplines.
- Define areas of scholarly intellectual interest and sponsor reading groups that bring in outside scholars who are writing a book and want to get chapters reviewed.
- Develop a regularly scheduled LACSI speaker series with UGA Latin Americanist faculty and graduate students who receive funding from LACSI's external funds for research.
- Create an annual UGA LACSI dissertation research award for the best dissertation focused on Latin America or the Caribbean.
- Participate in the Faculty Learning Community program with a proposal for a group on research on Latin America
- Follow the model of the successful Cultural Workshop in Sociology and the Transnational group in Women's Studies.
- CLASE will be holding a conference in October that will have a research component. We can perhaps collaborate.

Question #2

What collaborations with campus units and faculty not currently involved in LACSI should be pursued?

**List the stated career interests of students, research and teaching interests of faculty, and service interests of program members that are not currently being met.*

**Identify faculty or units on campus that can fulfill these needs.*

- LACSI needs to explore possibilities for conducting outreach in Latin America. We should contact the Office of Public Service & Outreach since they have established numerous outreach programs in Latin America.
- Maria Navarro will take responsibility for African Studies; Doris Kadish will take responsibility for Women's Studies and African American Studies for answering this question.
- LACSI is currently establishing a connection with Global Programs to conduct conversational Spanish classes for extension agents beginning next spring.
- Establish connection with CLASE to work with K-12 education.
- Contact Maria Gimenez, David Shipley, Paul Heald in the Law School and Blair Dorminey of the VISA Law Center to explore the possibility of collaborating on opportunities for LACS students to learn about immigration law. It is a subject of great interest to students. We should also make contact with the Hispanic Law Student Association. Some Spanish graduate students are pursuing an MA in Spanish concurrently with a law degree.
- We should pursue possible contacts with the Institute for Non-Profit Organizations because students are uncertain about career prospects and need to know more about work with NGOs.
- Robert Moser and members of the Portuguese faculty have collaborated some with the African Studies program to work with the Angolan consulate to establish a student exchange program to encourage graduate students from Angola to attend UGA. LACSI may want to revisit this matter and consider collaborating with African Studies on similar projects in the future.

Question #3

What is the role of the ethnobotanical garden in the LACSI program?

- Paul provided a handout on the garden that will be used to address this question at the next meeting.
- The point was made that the garden has been the linchpin to some significant LACSI external funding.

6. LACSI needs to create a curriculum committee. According to the bylaws, the executive committee selects 3 core and 1 affiliated faculty member to comprise this committee, which will be headed by the curriculum coordinator, Sergio Quesada. The executive committee agreed to solicit volunteers who are willing to serve on the committee. Once a pool of individuals volunteer, the committee will select four individuals to be on the curriculum committee.
7. The next executive committee meeting will be scheduled sometime after Paul Duncan and Doris Kadish return from their trip to Washington on January 10, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Schmaltz