

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
3-18-09: 10:00 A.M. LACSI Meeting Room

Agenda: Discussion of minutes of Curriculum Committee Meeting; Discussion of PRAC Report suggestions:

Notes on PRAC report

1. “reconsideration of the roles of the Director, the Assistant Director, and the staff
2. “need for greater clarity of respective responsibilities”; “need for more efficient and representative governing structure”
3. “that LACSI define its mission clearly with respect to Latino-related activities in other units on campus. What is the mission of Latin American studies in relation to Latino studies?”
4. identify outreach priorities consistent with LACSI’s current mission
5. define how Ethnobotanical garden fits into mission
6. expanding, not evolving (suggestion from Wayne Parrott regarding maintaining scientific component)

Discuss Willson Center activities for next year

Present: Dr. Doris Kadish
Dr. Betina Kaplan
Dr. Nicolás Lucero
Dr. Maria Navarro
Dr. Sergio Quesada
Kathleen Schmaltz
Emily Parker

Meeting began at 10:00 AM with opening remarks by Dr. Kadish.

New Business:

- The meeting began with discussion of the Curriculum Committee minutes to consider (and approve) 3 formal recommendations that were made by the curriculum committee. Items #1-3 in the Curriculum Committee minutes were presented and approved by the executive committee.
- Dr. Kadish discussed the status of the PRAC Report, including changes made by Patricia Richards and Wayne Parrott.
- The committee discussed the roles of the Assistant Director and the Director of LACSI as stated in the bylaws. The tasks of grant-writing and intellectual leadership were recommended to be added to the role of the Director.
- Dr. Matthews raised a question about the inclusion in the by-laws of the role of the Assistant Director as the curator of the Ethnobotanical Garden. This may, in the future, limit the applicants who could be considered for the position. It was decided that we should move forward in the appointment of an advisory committee for the Ethnobotanical Garden. The positive role of the Ethnobotanical Garden for LACSI was emphasized.

- The committee discussed the outreach component of LACSI and its specific relation to Latin America and the Caribbean. Elements discussed include the recruitment of Latino students to Latin America and the Caribbean courses at UGA, the Coile model being run by Dr. Sergio Quesada and Paul Duncan, which could be expanded to university students, promoting general awareness of Latin American heritage; service learning in Latin America. There was agreement that in response to the PRAC report there is a need to focus, to clarify, and to justify outreach activities in relation to LACSI's mission..
- Dr. Lucero suggested that LACSI should help provide materials/outreach to CLASE and other programs to bolster collaboration. It was agreed that in relation to Latino outreach LACSI's role should be complementary but not overlapping to any significant extent.
- The committee discussed the suggestion by the PRAC Report for a reconsideration of the role of the Advisory Board. It was suggested that perhaps their function/mission could be modified to reduce redundancy. This matter will be discussed further with that body, the Dean, and the faculty as a whole.
- Dr. Kadish discussed her meeting with Dr. Nugent of Emory regarding the NRC Grant proposal. She announced that Emory had dissolved their ISIS department (international programs) and the smaller language programs had been reabsorbed by home departments (Spanish, in the case of LACS). On the positive note, the Dean of Emory is extremely committed to the NRC proposal and is willing to assign someone in Sponsored Programs to work on the grant.
- Dr. Kadish discussed the Willson Center discussion group to begin in the fall semester of 2009. She proposed two questions that could be addressed by the speakers: 1. LACSI in relation to the larger university (other institutes such as African Studies and Women's Studies; dialogue between North and South campuses). Dr. Navarro suggested avoiding the division of the campuses by geographic location and suggested reference to disciplines instead.. 2. How does LACSI research address issues of poverty, sustainability, or social injustice? The committee agreed that these were good questions to start discussions. It was suggested that the working group meet three times a semester/once a month. Dr. Kadish will attempt to determine the names of speakers to invite by asking all of the potential LACSI participants.

Business to be conducted before the next meeting: Define what kind of data collection tasks need to be done for the NRC Grant proposal.

Meeting ended at 12:00 P.M. with closing remarks by Dr. Kadish.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 1 at 10:00 A.M. in the LACSI Conference Room

Minutes recorded by Emily Parker, 3-18-09.