

LACSI Faculty Meeting, December 10, 2008

Members Present: Doris Kadish, Robert Moser, Sergio Quesada, Thom Whigham, Laura Shedenhelm, Nicolas Lucero, Milton Maciadri, Amy Ross, Glenn Ames, Wayne Parrott, Paul Duncan, Carolina Acosta Alzuru, Maria Navarro, Silvia Giraudó, Chad Howe, Leara Rhodes, Patricia Richards, Julie Velásquez Runk, Susan Tanner, Reinaldo Román, Deborah Gonzalez, Alicia Arribas, Scott Weintraub, Luis Correa-Diaz, Quint Newcomer, Margaret Quesada, Maria Bermudez, Stephen Kowalewski, Kathleen Schmaltz

1. Introductions were exchanged.
2. It was noted that LACSI's core and affiliate faculty have been identified and voting procedures for conducting business are established.
3. LACSI's website updates were announced. All core and affiliate faculty are now listed on the site along with a link to their website and electronic CV. Everyone should check to see if their own personal information and links are correct. Requests for corrections/changes should be emailed to Kathleen Schmaltz (schmaltz@uga.edu).
4. The national search for a new director has been postponed, but will be conducted when financial resources become available. Dean Stokes and the Advisory Board have met to discuss the leadership situation. A letter explaining the Dean's decisions regarding this matter will be forthcoming from her in the near future.
5. Despite the current uncertainty surrounding the leadership issue, LACSI remains optimistic about the future and is moving forward with plans to apply for a National Resource Center grant from the Department of Education.
6. The plans for LACSI's NRC grant proposal were discussed. Key points included the following:
 - Doris has gotten advice on matters related to NRCs from a number of knowledgeable persons, including Professor Daniel Balderston at the University of Pittsburgh, who has extensive experience with NRCs. Based on the advice she has received, it seems advisable for LACSI to form a consortium with another university to apply for the grant. It also seems advisable for LACSI to partner with only one other institution to avoid the complexities involved in administering such a grant with multiple institutions. However, collaboration and events conducted with the NRC grant can certainly offer LACSI the opportunity to work with multiple universities.
 - Since there are several successful NRC consortia that pair public and private institutions (UNC/Duke; Notre Dame/Michigan), it was decided that partnering with Emory on such a venture would likely strengthen our application. Additional strong points for this pairing include: the matched funds that Emory may be able to contribute, the in-kind contribution that UGA will contribute, complementary programmatic strengths that UGA and Emory share, and faculty contacts that are already established between Latin Americanist faculty in both institutions.
 - Doris Kadish has approached David Nugent, the director of Emory's Latin American & Caribbean Studies program, about partnering for a NRC grant. Dr. Nugent was very enthusiastic about the possibility of working with LACSI on this venture.
 - Dean Stokes is also very supportive of the effort by LACSI to apply for a NRC award. She has already allocated \$2,000 for Paul Duncan and Doris Kadish to travel to Washington, D. C. in January to review successful NRC grant proposals on file at the Department of Education. Dean Stokes has also expressed her willingness to try to elicit support from colleges across campus in an effort to acquire matching funds for the proposal. Receiving such college-wide support is a crucial component for receiving a NRC award.

- It was noted that Emory's former LACS director is now the head of their Jewish Institute, so Emory will likely be able to gain support for this venture from other units on campus as well.
 - LACSI will also reach out to other units on campus, like the Law School to find collaborative opportunities on topics like immigration law. Deborah Gonzalez suggested keeping the focus broad because there is a larger body of important issues that students would likely be interested in. Robert Moser named Adjunct faculty member, Professor Charles Kuck as a possible contact in the Law School.
 - After Doris and Paul review proposals in Washington and have a better idea of the elements and budget needed for our proposal, we can create a short list of what UGA will be able to gain from an NRC award. Then, ad hoc committees of faculty can be formed so that individuals can begin to develop ideas for how their discipline can be involved.
 - Pursuing an NRC grant will benefit LACSI even if the grant is not awarded to us because it will strengthen ties between Emory and UGA, and going through the process would provide the foundation needed to apply for other grants like UISFL.
7. It was noted that Emory has been interested in establishing graduate internships with UGA that would allow interns to sit in on classes. Establishing such internships between UGA and Emory could be beneficial for both schools and may even work well with the internship that LACSI is establishing with the Brazilian consulate.
 8. Patricia Richards noted that as we move forward to develop a graduate certificate, enabling students to take courses at Emory through a consortium arrangement could reinvigorate our existing graduate programs in various disciplines.
 9. Laura Shedenhelm encouraged faculty and graduate students to ask for book donations for UGA's Latin American collection from government and NGOs when they travel internationally.
 10. Paul Duncan announced the Tinker and Exposition Foundation research awards that LACSI will be awarding this spring to faculty and students. A formal announcement and RFPs will be sent out prior to Christmas break. Ideas for sharing research after activities conducted with grants from LACSI were discussed. A LACSI speaker series and/or graduate student poster sessions could be created for this purpose. Another idea is to post research papers on LACSI's website.
 11. Robert Moser suggested creating an annual colloquium with Emory that would allow faculty and graduate students from both schools to present their research. Such an event would foster relationships and provide opportunities for collaboration between faculty members and students of both universities.
 12. Pamela Orpinas suggested that future LACSI faculty meetings might be preceded by poster presentations by Tinker or Exposition foundation award recipients. That would provide an opportunity to discuss the research projects which LACSI is sponsoring and in which LACSI faculty are participating.
 13. Doris informed everyone that LACSI will be forming a curriculum committee next semester. Sergio Quesada will chair the committee, which will propose changes to the curriculum, propose new programs, monitor and review existing programs, and take general responsibility for managing the curriculum. One goal for this committee will be to review and implement LACSI's learning outcomes. The committee will also have to address the PRAC report requests for the creation of a minor and a graduate certificate program. Faculty members who are interested in serving on this committee should respond when Doris calls for volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Schmaltz