

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

DESIGNATION CODE: 2011-12 CAPR 11

DATE SUBMITTED: March 15, 2012

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Review (CAPR)

SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review for Latin American Studies

PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION

REQUESTED: Acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of the Latin American Studies BA program in the College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences at California State University East Bay and the recommendation that it continue without modification. The date of the next Five-Year review is 2016-2017.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on February 16th, 2012, CAPR invited members of the Latin American Studies Program to orally present the outcome of their five-year review process completed in 2010-11 and submitted to CAPR for review in 2011-12 as prescribed in the Academic Program Review Procedures (08-09 CAPR 23 (revised)). Program Director Dr. Carlos Salomon had previously supplied the Senate Office with a full version of the program self-study, five-year plan, external reviewer's report and program response to the external reviewer's report. At this meeting, Dr. Salomon presented a summary of the Latin American Studies five-year review to CAPR and participated in a question and answer session.

Overview description of the program

The Latin American Studies program (LAST) is an interdisciplinary program that integrates academic study in multiple disciplines with foreign language acquisition and international field experience to offer a 180 unit B.A. in Latin American Studies. The program currently serves 4 declared majors and 10 minors students.

There are 3 courses currently offered by the program; LAST 3000 The Latin American World (4), LAST 3260 Latin American Women and Globalization (4), and LAST 3370 Latin American Social Movements (4). Two new courses are being considered as possible additions to the program: LAST 4005 Teaching in a Bilingual-Bicultural Setting, and LAST 4010 Internship Capstone. Fieldwork is encouraged as either study/internship abroad in a Latin American country or interning locally with a Latin American focused organization.

Overview of the documents submitted to CAPR

The Latin American Studies Program submitted a 23 page Five Year Review document. This document included the following;

SELF STUDY

Program Summary, Curriculum and Student Learning, Comparison of LAST to similar CSU Programs and Top Programs in the U.S., Students and Faculty, Faculty, Resources and Requirements

FIVE YEAR PLAN – LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Curriculum, Students, Faculty, Resources

EXTERNAL REVIEW

RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL REVIEW

CAPR applied a review matrix derived from the Academic Program Review Procedures suggested content for five-year review documentation to chronicle the contents of the Five Year Review document and to capture CAPR comments (see attached Appendix A).

CAPR Analysis of the Program's Five-Year Review

The Latin American Studies Program (LAST) is a multidisciplinary program offering the Bachelor of Art degree and is available as a minor for other majors. The program resides in the College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences and is currently administered by a Program Director from the Department of Ethnic Studies.

The Latin American Studies program has achieved a measure of success and visibility through the 'www.migrationstory.org' website which is a project of the Program Director, who was assisted by LAST students in collecting many of the stories that appear on the website.

In recent years the program has been challenged by declining numbers of major students and budget constraints that provide precious few resources for recruitment and retention activities, further exacerbating the low enrolment figures. The number of students selecting LAST as a minor course of study is greater than the number of majors but also small. Currently, the number of majors and minors stand at 4 and 10 respectively.

In addition to lack of resources to recruit, the Director believes that many potential students eventually opt for other courses of study due to LAST language requirements. This results in most majors and minors in the program being heritage Hispanic students who are not deterred by such language requirements.

The Program Director has identified areas for expansion and collaboration that would strengthen the program, such as intensified efforts aimed at training educators to deal with the growing presence of Hispanic students in the Bay Area and the need for more bi-cultural and bi-lingual teachers, with the Spanish Department, the Latin American Studies Program, and the Education Department collaborating to train a new generation of educators who can meet the demands of this demographic in the twenty first century.

As an interdisciplinary program rather than a department, the program does not have faculty or exercise control over resources. Identified needs regarding faculty, for example the need for a faculty member with expertise in Brazil, are not met though the need was identified in prior five year reviews. Comparison of the CSUEB program with premier programs finds that the latter have as many as 60 to 115 affiliated faculty. Comparison with other CSU programs reveals much larger programs, integrated master's degree programs and more developed curriculum.

The external reviewer hails from one such program (CSU Chico), which graduates approximately 20 majors every year from an overall student population slightly larger than CSUEB. The reviewer made a strong case for the potential contributions that a strong Latin American Studies program could provide for CSUEB and for the surrounding community, which includes a large Hispanic demographic.

The external reviewer's specific recommendations were:

- Alignment of the Latin American Studies program with CSU East Bay's stated mission, values, vision, and strategic mandates. Though introduced as a recommendation, this was more an identification of how a healthy LAST program should naturally contribute to each of these, with a suggestion that, "Additional linkages to Education, Criminal Justice, Nursing, and Social Work should be explored."

Specific recommendations were categorized as 'short-to midterm,' and 'major structural.'

Short to midterm recommendations:

- Provide a 0.2 annual release for the Latin American Studies program coordinator
- Update the website for Latin American Studies
- Update the assessment plan for Latin American Studies.
- Strengthen the program's Mission Statement
- Teach the newly proposed capstone courses
- Maintain commitment to Interlibrary Loan

Major structural recommendations

- Streamline the major and improve course offerings.
- Improve Study Abroad
- Explore ways to link Latin American Studies to GE
- Improve linkages with other programs on campus
- Apply to become a certified Hispanic Serving Institution through the federal Department of Education.
- Make a hire in the History department sometime during the next two years.

a. Program

Based on the issues raised in the self-study and external reviewer reports, CAPR proposes the following recommendations for the coming five-years:

- Improve and formalize linkages to other programs on campus, with special attention to supporting development of bi-lingual educators conversant in the history and cultures of Latin America.
- Develop and teach capstone Latin American Studies course
- Revise curriculum to better focus on Latin American topics, not exclusively Spanish focused, and to seek to integrate Latin American elements to foundational courses such, as micro economics, so that relevance of such courses to the degree are explicit.
- Explore study abroad options that are potentially more accessible (e.g. less expensive and time consuming than a full term or year abroad) to CSUEB students while still capturing the essence of the emersion in another culture.

b. Resources

The main concern for the coming five-years is to address the current program organization that results in severe overload of the Program Director position and the lack of availability of Brazilian expertise for Latin American Studies students. CAPR therefore proposes the following recommendations for the coming five-years:

- Hiring of a faculty member or lecturer with expertise in the language, culture and history of Brazil
- Release time be reinstated for the Program Director's position.
- That existing language resources be sustained at CSUEB and additional opportunities be made available so that students can gain exposure to the two major Latin American languages and not be restricted to Spanish by default.

This document and the recommendation to approve the Latin American Studies BA program for continuation without modification was approved unanimously by CAPR at its March 15, 2012 meeting.

CAPR Recommendation For Continuation Of The Program

Acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of the Latin American Studies BA program in the College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences at California State University East Bay and the recommendation that it continue without modification. The date of the next Five-Year review is 2016-2017.