



Date: December 17, 2012

From: James Houpis, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs
Susan Opp, AVP, Academic Programs and Graduate Studies

To: Kathleen Rountree, Dean, CLASS
Jagdish Agrawal, Interim Dean, CBE
Norman Bowen, Director, International Studies B.A. Program
Chris Chamberlain, Chair, CAPR

Subject: MOU Meeting – International Studies B.A.

On November 20, 2012, Kathleen Rountree (Dean, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences), Jiansheng Guo (Associate Dean, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences), Norman Bowen (Director, International Studies B.A.), Jagdish Agrawal (Interim Dean, College of Business and Economics), Chris Chamberlain (Chair, CAPR), Susan Opp (AVP, Academic Programs), and James Houpis (Provost and VP, Academic Affairs) met to discuss the 5-Year Program Review for the International Studies B.A. and to develop an MOU as required by CAPR.

The International Studies B.A. is a unique interdisciplinary program that includes study in international education and advanced study in foreign language, and which optionally includes a study abroad component. The program does not reside in an academic department, but rather draws courses from a number of academic programs, primarily in CLASS and sometimes in CBE, giving students a more or less individually-designed course of study. The strengths and weaknesses of this individualized approach were mentioned by the reviewer and CAPR – the curriculum is quite flexible and allows students to experience multiple academic perspectives, but it tends to result in a program with a lack of coherence or shared student experiences. Further, the program requires that students attain foreign language competency, which in some cases must be acquired by students off campus because of the limited education in languages available at CSUEB. The requirement for foreign language proficiency will require ongoing evaluation for feasibility, as foreign language opportunities are or are not available.

Another unique aspect of the program is the intensive, individualized student learning assessments and advising provided primarily by the Program Director. While the Program Director is commended for his dedication to the students and their learning experiences, the external reviewer and CAPR noted their concern for the future of a program that is so dependent on the dedication of a single individual. The program needs to clarify which learning goals are connected to general education skills, and which demonstrate the specific higher-order thinking and reasoning required for a major. Additionally, the

individual assessments have not yet been analyzed at the program level to offer data to the overall assessment of the program itself, as required by the University and its accrediting body. We also suggest that the Program Director re-examine the program learning outcomes and update those listed in the catalog to better reflect the learning outcomes discussed in the 5-year review.

The results of the MOU meeting are as follows:

1. The program will revise program learning outcomes as appropriate for incorporation into the 2013-14 catalog.
2. Individual student learning data will be examined and a plan developed to incorporate those results into an overall assessment of program learning outcomes.
3. The program will develop a curriculum map that will help to illustrate where essential learning takes place for most students in the program and where improvements to the curriculum might occur.
4. The program will evaluate its requirements for language instruction, and revise if necessary and appropriate.
5. The program will, working with CLASS Associate Dean Guo, prepare a memorandum, to be distributed to all involved parties, that clarifies that the program is no longer a 'joint' program between CBE and CLASS. While the participation of CBE faculty in the program is certainly an asset, that alone does not constitute a "joint" program.

The International Studies B.A. program is commended for the work of its faculty in support of student learning and success. CAPR is also thanked for the informative report.

cc: Mitch Watnik
Sophie Rollins