

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAYWARD

DESIGNATION CODE: 98-99 CAPR 14

DATE SUBMITTED: June 4, 1999

TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Resources
SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review for the Department of Anthropology

ACTION

REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the following CAPR Program Review:
Department of Anthropology

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On June 2, 1998, the Academic Senate, at its final 1997-98 meeting, voted to refer 97-98 CAPR 5 back to CAPR for clarification. During discussion on the Senate floor, some senators were concerned that the last sentence ("...that the department implements modifications to address the reviewer-identified 'lack of cohesion' regarding shared priorities and 'lack of vision' ...") did not seem to correspond to the tone and substance of the rest of the text. CAPR was asked to "review CAPR 5 with the members of the Anthropology Department to insure that the department understands what is being asked of it for its annual monitoring."

With this charge, the 98-99 CAPR invited Dr. Lindi Mark, Chair of Anthropology, to meet with CAPR on October 15, 1998. Although the discussion of the Anthropology program was informative and positive, it was felt more information was necessary. CAPR Chair Tom Acord and CAPR member Asoke Basu met with Chair Mark and the Anthropology faculty on December 2, 1998, and discussed 1997-98 CAPR 5 and its resolution. A written response from Chair Mark, dated February 25, 1999, was discussed by CAPR. Although reference was made to a "Five Year Plan" begun in Spring, 1996 (unknown to either the 97-98 CAPR or the 98-99 CAPR), the committee found the Chair's response lacking in substantive information regarding the future of the program and missing a direct response to the questions raised in the external review of Dr. Naomi Bishop.

Further meetings between Tom Acord, Asoke Basu and Lindi Mark were held during the Spring Quarter to discuss the aforementioned planning document (Five Year Plan, Department of Anthropology, June 12, 1997) and its relevance to the Anthropology program and CAPR's Program Review. It was also during this period that a well-defined proposal for a "tenure track" position was prepared by the Department and successfully presented to the Provost. A national search is currently underway for a position in Applied Anthropology.

On May 26, 1999, CAPR received a memo from Chair Mark addressing CAPR's concerns with the Anthropology program, as identified in 97-98 CAPR 5, and guided by the Anthropology Planning Document, CAPR elected to suspend "annual monitoring" of the program. It is CAPR's decision to recommend "continuation without modification" for the Anthropology program. CAPR also wishes to acknowledge the support, professionalism and collegiality of Chair Mark and her colleagues in the Anthropology Department.

Revised text of 97-98 CAPR 5

In the Fall of 1997, CAPR met with faculty from Anthropology to discuss their five-year review. CAPR completed its report at our meeting on May 7, 1998. CAPR relied upon the academic performance review statistics from Fall of 1997. All the review materials are available in the Senate office

The Department of Anthropology offers B.A. and M.A. degrees in Anthropology, a minor in Anthropology, and an Anthropology option within the Liberal Studies major. A sizeable portion of the department's regular course offerings satisfy general education requirements. The department has five full-time faculty serving 58 majors, 17 of whom are graduate students, and a FTE of 162. Dr. Naomi H. Bishop, Chair of Anthropology at CSU Northridge, visited the campus in the Spring of 1997 and submitted her outside review on May 25, 1997. In the Fall of 1997, Anthropology faculty met with CAPR to discuss this review.

Dr. Bishop complimented the Anthropology major for being broadly conceived and well designed. She described the curriculum as innovative and as providing opportunities for field and hands-on experience. As she wrote, "students receive expert instruction in all aspects of anthropology." She noted that the faculty represent the major subfields of the discipline and that they are engaged in their research areas. She called the museum a major asset to the department and the university. At the same time, Dr. Bishop identified a "lack of cohesion" regarding shared priorities and a "lack of vision of the program that coincides with the realities of the funding base" as two areas of potential program weakness. She also noted that the small number of Anthropology majors is a significant obstacle to the department's ability to compete for resources. In her recommendations for how to address these potential weaknesses, Dr. Bishop cited three department goals: to maintain the anthropology major on campus, to provide service courses for general education and the liberal studies major, and to build student program demand that would lead to resources for new faculty. To achieve these goals using existing resources, Dr. Bishop presented the pros and cons for each of the following options: eliminate the graduate program, eliminate the museum, develop interdisciplinary links with other departments.

In response to these suggestions, the department has revised the graduate curriculum, which they continue to consider a viable program. They also continue to see the museum as an important department, university, and community resource; and they oppose its elimination. At their meeting with CAPR, faculty members described their collaborative work with other departments to develop proposals for the new general education requirements and to create a program in Diaspora Studies.