

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAYWARD

DESIGNATION CODE: 99-00 CAPR 10  
DATE SUBMITTED: May 11, 2000

TO: The Academic Senate  
FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Resources  
SUBJECT: Five-year Program Review for the Latin American Studies Program

**ACTION**

REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the CAPR Program Review of the Latin American Studies Program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On April 18, 2000 CAPR met with Dr. Pablo-Raul Arreola, Director of the Latin American Studies Program for discussion of the five-year program review. The external reviewer's report, prepared by Thomas Davies, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State University, the Program's response to the external review and its tentative Five Year Plan were all part of the Five-Year Program Review submitted to CAPR.

The Latin American Studies (LAS) Program allows students at CSUH to obtain a B. A. Major or Minor in Latin American Studies or fulfill a Latin American Studies Option in the Liberal Studies and International Studies Majors. The Latin American Studies Program is a liberal arts program residing under the Department of History and is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on faculty and courses taught in the Departments of Anthropology, Art, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Geography, Environmental Studies, History, Modern Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and courses sometimes taught in other departments. The Latin American Studies Program has only one course of its own, LAST 3000: The Latin American World, but requires certain specific courses and a selection of other choices from participating departments. Students must work closely with their advisor to coordinate course work and 'extra-campus' activities, i.e., study abroad, internship opportunities and volunteer work, in order to attain timely degree completion. Many of the students in this program achieve a double major, which allows for development of a particular area of focus and expertise. Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese by either completion of the third quarter of intermediate language at CSUH or by a LAS Program administered examination.

PROGRAM REVIEW

The reviewer found that the Latin American Studies Program at CSUH is in good health and may be in the position to take steps to become "one of the premier programs on the west coast."

**CURRICULUM:** The reviewer stressed the importance of the LAS Program's language requirement and particularly the increasing importance of Spanish language acquisition for all who live and work in California and the Southwestern United States. He strongly suggested that efforts be made to rebuild and expand the Spanish and Portuguese language programs at CSUH, both in support of the LAS Program, as well as for the benefit of other students who may want or need second language competency for degree satisfaction and career success. Also, an enlargement of language requirements and offerings and a demonstration of commitment to future growth would

allow the LAS Program to qualify and apply for federal funding, specifically under Title VI, and other educational grant monies. The reviewer fully believes that an aggressive effort should be made to apply for and obtain extramural funding for the LAS Program.

The reviewer suggested that a 1000-level introductory course be created and that the LAS 3000 course be made a 4000 level capstone course. He also recommended the possible establishment of other courses that could be team-taught, might contain a strong library component, or may be specifically directed towards professional degrees - Nursing, Criminal Justice, Social Work, Business, etc. - and could serve to guide students in meaningful interaction with professional programs on campus. In line with this recommendation, the reviewer suggested the development of a joint undergraduate International Business degree, which may contribute to increased University enrollment.

Finally, the reviewer recommended the establishment of a Certificate in Translation Studies program to provide practical job opportunities and connect the University to the larger community in a direct way. Only a few such programs exist in the United States and CSUH could benefit greatly by creating another.

**FACULTY, STAFF, RESOURCES:** The reviewer was impressed with the enthusiasm and energy of the LAS faculty, both those newly appointed and those who are intending to retire in the near future. He sees the next few years as being very critical to the continuing existence and success of the program for several reasons. He stressed that strong support from all Schools is necessary to ensure that replacement faculty who are hired in the departments from which LAS courses are drawn be chosen with the needs of the Latin American Studies Program in mind. This would serve to both maintain the existing LAS curriculum as well as to allow revision and expansion of Program offerings. Of further concern is the fact that the current director of the LAS Program, Dr. Pablo-Raul Arreola, plans to 'step down' in one or two years. Dr. Arreola has been highly praised by students, administrators and faculty as very committed, energetic and effective director. An equal and timely replacement should be sought in order to maintain the vitality of the LAS Program. The reviewer also suggested establishing a Coordinating or Steering Committee to oversee cross college course development and program direction for the Latin American Studies Program.

**STUDENTS:** The reviewer found that LAS majors were small in number (fewer than ten) but enthusiastic and bright, were deeply committed to Latin American Studies, proud of their major and the education and preparation provided by the LAS Program, and were very active as a group. Many, if not most, plan to enter the teaching profession so they "might give back to their communities more than they have received." However, all students expressed concerns about the small number of both faculty and courses, and the diversity of courses offered. Students had great interest in establishing LAS connections with various professional programs, and in creating a Latin American Studies Club.

#### LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM RESPONSE

The Program Director and faculty were pleased with the external reviewer's overall report and found it very useful, expressing agreement with many of the recommendations. Specific responses addressed various areas.

**CURRICULUM:** The LAS Program faculty agree with the reviewer's recommendations for curricular modifications, i.e., creation of a 1000-level introductory course, transformation of the existing 3000-level course into a 4000-level capstone course/experience with a major research project, and the possible creation of a Latin American Literature in Translation course. These changes will be

discussed during the current academic year with a view towards implementation during the next two years. The LAS Program will also continue to investigate the possibilities for increasing collaboration with and service to students in pre-professional majors by developing cross-listed, career-oriented courses with other departments. LAS will explore the creation of a joint ALSS/Business BA degree in International Business and will confer with faculty at San Diego State University, where their ten-year old program serves over 1000 majors, encompassing Asian, Latin American and European Studies, as well as intensive language study. LAS will also visit SDSU to observe the Certificate in Translation Program, consult with its faculty and will discuss with ALSS and the MLL department the possibility of creating such a program at CSUH.

**FACULTY, STAFF, RESOURCES:** Many of the faculty who have been teaching courses for the LAS major are approaching retirement or have FERPed and are/will not be available to offer necessary LAS courses on a regular and consistent basis. The provision of MLL courses in language acquisition and Latin American literature may be particularly affected. As LAS is an interdisciplinary program, every effort will be made to communicate the needs of LAS to participating departments when making new tenure track hires. Consideration for LAS Program needs is particularly important for new hires in Political Science and Modern Languages and Literature, and LAS hopes to take an active role in these hiring decisions over the next few years. Of as much concern is the departure of Dr. Arreola as LAS Program director. Even with the support of other departments and faculty, much of the program administration is the responsibility of the director. Every effort will be made to find a timely and appropriate replacement, one who may possibly steer the LAS Program in a new direction. Dr. Arreola has agreed to mentor the incoming Director and will oversee the creation of a small coordinating committee to participate in writing and carrying out a new Five Year Plan and provide guidance in programmatic issues during and beyond the transitional phase. It is hoped that the new Director will actively pursue grant application and funding from external sources; it is anticipated that new faculty hires and curricular expansion will increase the eligibility of the LAS Program to qualify for grant monies. If successful, such external funding could allow for the creation of a Latin American Studies Center, summer seminars and other outreach projects, both on campus, in the community and abroad.

**STUDENTS:** The Latin American Studies Program will continue its affiliation with CSUH student groups such as MECHA and the Latina/o Academic Society and sponsorship of campus cultural events. Course collaboration with departments serving pre-professional students should be beneficial to LAS students who seek such careers.

#### CAPR'S EVALUATION

CAPR finds the external review and the Latin American Studies Response to be satisfactory, concurring that this is a vital Program which can continue to make an excellent and significant contribution to its students, the University, and the larger California community. CAPR recommends approval of the five-year review and continuation of the Latin American Studies Program without modification.