

## California State University, East Bay

Designation Code: 2005-06 CAPR 6 revised

Date Submitted: January 26, 2006

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee of Academic Planning and Resources

SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review of the International Studies Program

PURPOSE: For Approval by the Academic Senate

ACTION  
REQUESTED: Acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of the International Studies Program and approval of the continuation of the program without modification, but including implementation of the recommendations specifically identified by CAPR

### **BACKGROUND SUMMARY:**

In October, 2005, CAPR met with Norman Bowen, Director of the International Studies Program, to discuss the five-year review document. The Program offers a Bachelor of Arts degree and a minor in International Studies.

The International Studies Program is jointly offered by the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Business and Economics. The Program combines the social science model with language acquisition along with the option of developing areas of emphasis in specific disciplines like economics, business or international relations. The Program link to the business program is unlike any in the UC and CSU systems.

The program director is a faculty member in the Political Science Department, and he is given release time for recruiting, advising and managing the International Studies Program. The program director works very closely with the INTS advisory committee, which includes faculty from different departments and colleges. Except for two INTS courses, major students take courses offered in other departments and designed for other majors.

The number of students in the major has remained stable and even grown modestly over the past few years. The last reviewer believed that the major would remain small as long as it maintained the second language requirement within a university environment that was not supportive of language acquisition.

**CAPR RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM:** CAPR recommends the continuation of the Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies with the following recommendation: With the support of CLASS and CBE, the INTS advisory committee should develop a plan to involve additional faculty in advising. CAPR enlists the university's support of the INTS program and its director in creating new courses and options, and *timely* notification of each proposed annual college block schedule of courses.

**DATE OF THE PROGRAM'S NEXT ACADEMIC REVIEW:** 2009-2010

## **Additional Background Information**

### Overview Description of the Program:

Jointly offered by the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Business and Economics, the International Studies Program helps students prepare for a broad range of international careers through a personalized curriculum, language acquisition and field experience. The International Studies Program promotes second language competency for life-long enjoyment and career enhancement. The Program encourages international experience through study abroad or internships with companies and non-profit organizations. The Program is committed to providing intensive advising, encouraging student-defined academic goals, and nurturing a supportive student community linked to an active alumni network.

### Overview of the Documents Submitted to CAPR:

In compliance with CAPR's Policies and Procedures for Five-Year Reviews and Plans, the Director of the International Studies Program submitted the following documents to CAPR:

- International Studies Program Self Study 2004-05
- External Review of the International Studies Program
- International Studies Program Response to Outside Review
- International Studies Five-Year Plan 2005
- International Studies Intern Supervisors Report
- International Studies Program Survey of Alumni Fall 2004

## **FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW/SELF STUDY**

Summary of Specific Areas of the Self-Study 2004-05: The self-study included the following sections: (a) summary of the last program review, (b) program assessment, (c) analysis of majors in International Studies, (d) comparison with other programs in the UC and CSU systems, and (e) program achievements.

Recommendations from the previous (2000) external reviewer:

- **Field Component:** Because of the small number of students who participated in Study Abroad, it was suggested that CSUEB consider developing its own short-term programs. This proposal was deemed impractical. However, INTS has developed additional local internship opportunities in the areas suggested by the outside reviewer in addition to promoting the development of a CSU-wide internship program in conjunction with International Programs.
- **Second Language Offerings:** The 2000 review identified a problem that has only become more acute: the limited number of second language offerings available at CSUEB with which INTS students can fulfill their minimum two-year language obligation. CLASS and INTS have made efforts to seek outside community funding for language instruction. INTS prepares and maintains for students a list of language offerings at community colleges in the Bay Area. The reviewer questioned whether INTS would be a valuable major even without the second-language requirement and whether additional students would be interested in INTS if there were no language

- requirement. The INTS Committee continues to feel that second language acquisition and the inter-cultural understanding that it implies remains at the core of the program.
- **Lack of Interaction between INTS and Ethnic Studies:** The reviewer thought that areas of cooperation were possible. INTS has worked to incorporate more ethnic studies courses in the INTS curriculum through special arrangements with ethnic studies instructors. In 2003-04, when reorganization of CLASS was being discussed, possible merger into an interdisciplinary department of ES and other interdisciplinary departments was discussed, but it was decided that this would not be a positive move.
  - **Faculty Involvement:** The idea of involving more CSUEB faculty in the teaching of INTS courses has run up against the problems of availability of other faculty, the allocation of the two INTS regular courses in CLASS, and the general cutback in course offerings across the campus.
  - **Administrative Support:** The reviewer recommended additional release time for the director due to the heavy, complex advising demands of the major. The CLASS dean granted the request. The outside reviewer also recommended additional administrative support for INTS, which shares office support with the Political Science Department. This recommendation was ignored, but the office does utilize the support of work-study students in assisting on INTS projects.
  - **Space:** Space limitations in Meiklejohn Hall have not permitted the implementation of the recommendations for a private office for the director or a space for a gathering point for the majors in the INTS Program.
  - **INTS Faculty Committee:** The outside reviewer suggested that one or two regular intern supervisors and INTS alumni be invited to attend one INTS Faculty Committee meeting per year. This has proven to be difficult because of the availability of the intern supervisors and alumni, but the suggestion has not been abandoned.
  - **Advising:** It was suggested that other faculty, particularly those teaching courses required by the INTS major, be recruited to take up some of the advising burden. This recommendation was not implemented.

#### Summary of Supporting Data:

The number of majors in INTS grew marginally between 2000 and 2004 from 39 to 46. During that same period, INTS graduated an average of 10 students per year, with a high of 13 in 2000 and a low of 7 in 2004. The figures have been up and down, but with two low years in 2003 and 2004. Enrollment in INTS 3100 Global Systems, the upper division integrative course, averaged 32 between 2000 and 2004. Enrollment in the Senior Seminar has averaged 17 over that same period. The average GPA for INTS majors was 2.9 in Fall 2004. It is expected that the mix of students will remain the same: international students using English as a second language, US citizens with some heritage language skills, and students with classroom-based language skills. Nearly 80% of INTS majors are female; about 75% are minority; almost half the majors are Asian; 5% are African-American, and 10% are Hispanic.

#### Assessment:

The International Studies Program manages a portfolio-based assessment program for every major, collecting in individual portfolios an entry and exit writing exercise that integrates large program themes, an entry and exit survey of student program goals and program satisfaction, individual skill assessment grids from instructors in required core courses, supervisor evaluations of student internships, and multiple faculty evaluation of the capstone senior seminar projects.

## **OUTSIDE REVIEWER'S COMMENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE**

In April, 2005, Dr. JoAnn Aviel, Chair of the International Relations Department at San Francisco State University, reviewed the International Studies Program and submitted a detailed ten-page report.

The outside reviewer presented many strengths of the Program.

- multidiscipline composition
- flexibility afforded to majors
- individual attention and support given to the majors by the director
- dedication, commitment, and leadership demonstrated by the director
- a model for other programs and departments in linking advising and assessment for majors and
- good relations between faculty from different departments and support for the program

Areas of concern presented by the outside reviewer:

- No other faculty member is as committed to the program as the director, and the success of the program depends on him. Replacing him will be difficult. The program could be strengthened by having its own faculty and allocation while continuing to incorporate courses from other departments into its curriculum.
- Students face uncertainties as to when or if required courses are offered. The INTS program depends on classes being offered in other departments, as only the two INTS courses are scheduled within the program.
- A concern about the second language requirement in the Program and the lack of available language courses offered at CSUEB and the effect that this will have on the growth of the Program.

The outside reviewer's report included the following recommendations:

- Recommendation 1: Consider adding four lower division units in the major. POSC 1500 Conflict in World Politics or an equivalent lower division international relations course for transfer students (POSC 3520 International Relations as an alternative for those transfers who have not had an international relations course); or HIST 1016, 2019 or substitute HIST 3017.
- Recommendation 2: To add to the flexibility of the major, suggested that students have the choice of GEOG 2310 or ENVT 2000. Also, there was some concern about the two week overlap in GEGO 2300 and 2310 (Economic Development and Agriculture and Food Preparation).
- Recommendation 3: If resources permit, consideration should be given to offering an INTS course in Theories and Methods in International Studies. Some students complained that the course taken is not applicable to their focus.
- Recommendation 4: Consider the creation of formal options in place of the current four-course Emphases, and creating a new option in American Studies for international students.
- Recommendation 5: Upper division electives, courses on the Middle East and Europe, and International Migration. To assist students in planning their courses, it would be helpful if students knew when courses would be offered on a longer term basis than currently.

- Recommendation 6: Better publicize the minor and make it easier to select. The minor curriculum should contain similar requirements to those of the major so that students who might decide to change to a major can do so without difficulty. Consider making the second language an option for the minor to encourage students who might not otherwise have considered international studies to take it.
- Recommendation 7: The lack of available language courses at CSUEB may require suspending the language requirement. The requirement does not seem to add to the number of students taking courses in the MLL department. It does seem to deter students who have not been exposed to a second language in the home from choosing the major. The on-line listing of courses in the Modern Languages and Literature Department does not seem to reflect the reality of course offerings. Courses not being offered should not be listed and courses offered only infrequently should be listed with information on when they will be offered.
- Recommendation 8: Study Abroad, the INTS request for the creation of a CSUEB Travel and Internship award was successful, but the availability of more scholarships would be desirable. Students who complete internships should be required to write a short report and/or attend an intern and career orientations session to report on their experience.
- Recommendation 9: Involve additional faculty in advising, not only to lessen the director's workload, but also to give students a different perspective. It was suggested that an advisor be named for each discipline and area of study emphasis with their names and a link to their e-mail on the International Studies website.
- Recommendation 10: Provide assistance on a regular basis with the web site. Include short bios of faculty associated with the program, as well as information on internships.
- Recommendation 11: It would be helpful if the director could have his own office and a place nearby for international students to meet informally.

Recognizing the importance of each of these recommendations, the Director's response to the outside reviewer's comments indicates that:

- Recommendations 1 and 2: Considerations of these plans will be a high priority of the INTS advisory committee.
- Recommendation 4: An option in International Business and Economics would correspond to the most popular of the topical Emphases. Such a move would probably require developing full options in other popular emphases such as Cross-Cultural Studies and International Organizations and Law. Eliminating the Emphasis system would have its drawbacks; currently students may select (with the approval of an advisor) any Emphasis for which they can find four related courses. Therefore, in addition to the prominent Emphases identified above, students have been able to adapt the Program to their individual needs with Emphases in International Health Care, Human Rights and International Law, or Migration Studies. In some cases, these more narrow concentrations are geared for students preparing for graduate study.
- Recommendation 5: The INTS advisory committee will consider the reviewer's recommendation to identify possible courses of interest to International Studies students that are not being offered. CLASS and the College of Business and Economics will then be approached about possible course allocation.
- Recommendation 6: The reviewer's suggestion is to experiment with dropping the language requirement from the minor. If the result is a significant increase in minors then the Program should consider developing a non-language track. However, there will be great reluctance to follow this path, which would attack what many consider to be the

heart of the Program. The reviewer is correct in noting that among the students in this year's senior seminar, all are either international students or students who spoke a language other than English at home. However, it is also true that many of the former also began a third language while at CSUEB (and are more likely to participate in study abroad) and that more and more of the latter require some formal language training to consolidate and professionalize their language skills. It might be short sighted to jettison foreign language at a time when international employment opportunities are continuing to expand and when American employers, with increasing frequency, prefer candidates with second language skills.

- Recommendation 7: The INTS advisory committee will continue to work with the Department of Modern Languages and other interested segments of the on-campus and off-campus communities to address possible ways to reverse the downward trend in language offerings. The effect of this decline on International Studies majors is palpable; students scramble to complete their two-year language requirement at community colleges, UC Berkeley, or private language programs. More than one International Studies major is considering an inter-CSU transfer.
- Recommendation 8: The International Studies Program will benefit from the announcement by CSU International Programs (IP) of its intention to begin offering a wider variety of overseas study plans for CSU students. The availability of short-term study abroad programs will surely increase the number of International Studies majors able to participate in IP. The INTS advisory committee will continue to explore ways to incorporate international internships into the CSU IP curriculum. The International Studies Program involves the student in career planning at three points in their university stay: during the first advising session in which students set career goals and determine the skills they will need to achieve that goal, during preparation for their internship and at yearly International Career events co-sponsored with the Career Development Center (CDC) and the Center for International Education. There is also a yearly INTS graduate programs session. In exit surveys and in the most recent alumni survey, students have articulated the desire for more career guidance. International Studies plans to formalize a program with the CDC for individual career counseling as part of portfolio-based advising.
- Recommendation 9: An immediate goal will be to invite faculty from across the campus (including faculty members teaching INTS core courses) with interests in international affairs, education and languages to join the INTS advisory committee. Such an enlargement of the INTS advisory committee will facilitate the achievement to expand advising for the Emphasis beyond the Program Director and increasing the number of on campus ambassadors for the Program.

## **PROGRAM'S FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

- The INTS advisory committee has discussed the possibility of establishing formal options, only to conclude that the current system already allows a high degree of specialization. A new option might include an American Studies Option designed to respond to the interests of international students.
- The Program might choose to loosen the core requirements in order to introduce more alternative courses due to course scheduling problems and the widespread use of course substitutions for individual students.
- If the numbers in the major begin to fall, the program might be forced to consider dropping the language requirement.

- Preliminary explorations with the Center for International Education to develop cohort-based 2+2 programs with Japanese and Chinese partners.
- Strengthen contacts and discussion among instructors teaching INTS core courses.
- Discuss the desirability of developing new courses designed specifically for the major and approach CLASS and CBE departments with request for new courses.
- University needs to address resources and the workload issue associated with the demand of assessment.

## **CAPR ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRAM'S FIVE-YEAR REVIEW**

Program Changes and Challenges: CAPR acknowledges and appreciates the dedication of the director to the International Studies Program and its majors. CAPR gives the director high marks for creating and maintaining a portfolio-based assessment program for every student in the major. CAPR applauds the director's collaborative efforts across the colleges and among the departments by establishing the INTS advisory committee.

However, CAPR sees the following issues as ongoing challenges facing the International Studies Program.

- Lack of University support for revitalization of the Modern Language Program directly affects the growth of the International Studies major and minor. Limited course offerings often forces CSU East Bay students to go elsewhere to complete these requirements.
- Early identification of the students enrolled in the INTS minor, so that they can be advised and encouraged to take the major.
- Collaboration and communication among the colleges and the departments to provide the INTS major students with complete and accurate information on course offerings. CAPR also supports and encourages this collaborative effort in creating new options and courses for INTS major students.
- Lack of a backup plan for the program director in the areas of advising and recruiting. CAPR encourages the program director and INTS advisory committee to give serious consideration to the outside reviewer's Recommendation 9 above.
- Updating and maintaining the web site to market the major and the minor.