LAS Emphases

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
The Latin American Studies program underwent a Program Review in 2012-2013. Input from the external reviewer suggested that changing the name and creating different emphases would be beneficial. The Latin American Studies Program has a long history of language emphasis, which distinguishes this program. Both faculty and students want the opportunity for more culture, society, and historical perspectives. Although the same courses are used in both emphases, the significant difference is the number of electives per category that enables students to focus either on language (one emphasis) or language plus additional social and cultural perspectives (another emphasis). The proposed new emphasis in “Culture, Language and Society” will hopefully attract more students and make the Latin American Studies program more visible.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. No other programs are impacted by this change. No classes were added. One class was removed in consultation with the participating faculty member and her department. The LAS Steering Committee includes representatives from the participating programs/departments.
2. The same courses are included in both emphases (see list below and associated support documents for detail). Although this might seem unique, we have precedence on this campus with grouping existing courses into different emphases to highlight different tracks aligned with career paths. The different emphases will (hopefully) both attract more students to the LAS program as well as provide students with transcripted evidence as they launch their careers with a focus on one or the other emphasis.
   a. Language Emphasis
      i. Required 15-18
      ii. Electives 9 credits List 1
      iii. Electives 9 credits List 2
   b. Culture, Language and Society Emphasis
      i. Required 15-18
      ii. Electives 12 credits List 1 (which is identical to Language List 2)
      iii. Electives 6 credits List 2 (which is identical to Language List 1)
3. Having the two emphases does not prevent students from taking additional courses from the other elective.
4. The origins of the LAS program is in the Department of Foreign Languages (currently in process of being renamed to the Department of Languages). The focus on Spanish is a significant characteristic of our program and differentiates it from other programs. Having a separate emphasis on proficiency in the Spanish language will further differentiate our program from those focusing primarily on social, cultural, historical and political knowledge.
5. The grouping of courses into new emphases will have no impact on the LAS minor.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. Distinguishes our university from other universities offering a Latin American Studies program.
2. Can be used as a marketing tool to attract more students.
3. Will help students show proficiency in different areas where they are seeking employment.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:
1. Rename the emphasis within the MAJOR: LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, Liberal Arts (Code 340-202) to MAJOR: LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, Language Emphasis, Liberal Arts (Code 340-XXX) and to
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of __9__ for to __0__ against on October 8, 2013

recommends that the following changes be made to the Latin American Studies major:

1. The emphasis titled MAJOR: LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, Liberal Arts (Code 340-202) be renamed to MAJOR: LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, Language Emphasis, Liberal Arts (Code 340-XXX);

Implementation Date: 2014-15 Undergraduate Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
       Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office