



# University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

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**Date:** May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**To:** Provost and Vice Chancellor, Patricia Kleine

**From:** MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

**Subject:** APC report regarding program review of the Latin American Studies Program

The Academic Policies Committee (APC) appreciates the time and effort of Director, Manuel Fernandez, the members of the Internal Review Committee (Li-Ying Bao, Josh Brown, and Jim Boulter) and the external reviewer (Dr. Christina Abreu) for the review of the Latin American Studies (LAS) Program. The internal review and external review reports provided the committee useful information to assist us in forming our recommendations. While the APC recommendations are generally summarized on the attached spreadsheet APC is providing additional details in the form of this letter.

## COMMENDATIONS:

The Latin American Studies Program is to be commended for the following:

1. The program's faculty in offering high quality teaching and effective pedagogies.
2. The program's effort to streamline curriculum requirements and removal of all but two of its major programs to attract more majors and improve time-to-degree.
3. The program's participation and quality instruction in the LE program.
4. The program provides heritage Latin American students enrolled in other programs a sense of community on campus.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

**1. Program visibility and Major Recruitment.** As a result of the program array review (Provost's Letter, May 1, 2018), the Latin American Studies Program was directed to address their declining numbers of major and/or face possible program elimination. It is concerning to the Academic Policies Committee that the program is unable to determine reasons for continued declines in existing major offerings. The committee agrees with internal and external reviewers that the program needs to increase their recruitment efforts through the ARCC, Admissions, and LE core courses. The program should also continue its efforts to ensure that course availability (or adequate substitutions) are consistent throughout the majors so students have a clear pathway to degree completion.

**2. Utilization of Requested FTE.** According to both the internal review committee and external reviewer, an additional FTE position in the program is warranted to decrease the dependency of other departments to provide necessary courses for the completion of the LAS major, minor, and/or certificate program. The APC would like to see LAS develop a specific plan on how additional FTE (if provided) would be utilized to deliver course offering and/or contribute to recruitment efforts

**3. Program array review deadline revision.** The Academic Policies Committee agrees with the Latin American Studies Program and recommendation from the Internal Review Committee

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*Academic Policies Committee*

*University Senate*

(recommendation 3.4) that elimination is too extreme of an action, especially given the only savings is FTE tied to the Director's position. The program should be provided an agreed upon timeline that will allow for the changes to the majors to be implemented. The program still provides a lot of services to other majors, LE fulfillment, and EDI initiatives.

**4. Review Form (Excel) recommendations that APC left blank (item #3):** The Academic Policies Committee recommends that Latin American Studies engage in discussion with Academic Affairs regarding accountability for interdisciplinary teaching across departments. It is noted that this concern was also raised in the 2013 letter from the Academic Policies Committee. The committee left this recommendation blank because the proposed model doesn't exist anywhere else on campus.

Summary Recommendation:

The Latin American Studies Program continues to address the "moral imperative" needs of students, our campus, and community. For the program to continue in these efforts, the APC recommends these immediate actions:

- Recruit and retain more majors
- Seek out support from IMC for promotional outreach materials
- Work with ARCC and advisors to map pathways for students to achieve a LAS major/minor/certificate

APC strongly supports the recommendation from all the other review levels to "continue in present form" considering the recommendations made above.

Cc.

Dr. Manuel Fernandez, Director of Latin American Studies

Dr. Mary Hoffman, Director of Academic Planning and Assessment