

Provost's Council Resource Review for the Department of Anthropology

The Provost's Council Resource Review Subcommittee consisting of Jená Burges (Vice Provost), Robin Meiggs (faculty representative) and Harry Wells (CAHSS Associate Dean) met on September 30, 2008 to discuss points arising from the reading of the department's self-study, the College resource review, and the College curriculum committee's comments. The parenthetical page references refer to the following documents as follows: the College Resource Review (CRR), Department Self-Study (DSS), and the College Curriculum Committee Proposal Record (CCC).

It was noted that the charge to the committee in the Program Review is far more extensive than merely asking funding questions. It includes "a university-wide perspective and commentary on the overall quality of the department, the department's curriculum, enrollment and instructional faculty trends, special University commitments, and other institutional concerns." These points are offered in light of that charge:

1. The department is at a crossroads in defining how it will shape its curriculum and identity toward the future. As the library resource review indicates (DSS, p. 53), and as the self-study reflects (pp. 81-83), the department's curriculum has shifted focus from the last program review. It has moved from an emphasis on linguistics, economic anthropology, and human population ecology to primatology, archaeology, cultural and forensic anthropology.

In light of this crucial task of decisions for the future, the department needs to develop clarity as to its programmatic objectives and learning outcomes. The present department assessment plan, as outlined in the self study, does not indicate a clear identity for the department nor the learning goals for its students in relation to the above shift. We think the department has excellent potential for growth in some areas, but lacks clarity as to where it is going to put its resources with direct linkage to its objectives and learning outcomes.

2. The department needs to define with clarity where it will focus its growth efforts, and thus its curricular choices. Which area will be the primary focus initially, and what curricular changes will need to be made? This cannot be mere expansion, though the latter is not ruled out (pending prioritization). Rather, what areas must be given up in order to have expanded coverage in another area? With retirement of faculty, it is an opportune time to reflect on re-direction, and prioritize curriculum and resources toward fewer subfields of the discipline.

3. Course overlap with other departments should be examined more closely. For instance, rather than offer an introductory level linguistics course, utilize an existing course in another department, such as the linguistics course in English.

4. We support the one-time funding of the following, with the related conditions:

a) **Department Website redesign: \$1500**

This money should be awarded with the explicit expectation that the department develops clarity as to the direction of its focus as a department. In other words, the five year hiring plan, outcomes, and assessment plan must have a cohesion with objectives that clearly frame department identity and goals, and thus frame their website presence and marketing. Its content should specify department mission, objectives and outcomes their students will demonstrate. This is especially important in marketing themselves in cultural resource management and other applied anthropological fields.

b) **Marketing materials for new field schools: \$1200**

Again, field school opportunities and the learning outcomes associated with them should be clearly articulated as to their role in the curriculum and the priority level which they occupy in allocation of department resources.

c) If reflected as the primary directions in the department's identity, then support for the BSS 136 Smart lab (Archaeology Teaching Lab) and Biological lab are recommended.

Smart lab (Archaeology): \$7000

computer (one in there already)	0
projector	3600
screen	784
speakers	240
DVD	240
cables and installation (by plant ops)	1800
repair megapixel microscope camera	250
bags and boxes	100

Biological Lab: \$4300

Slide scanner	600
Regular scanner	200
Primate field-school digital recorder	1000
Lab computer	2500