



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Memorandum of Understanding

Jewish Studies Program
College of Liberal Arts
February 2020

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the consensus reached by the Jewish Studies program (JSP), the College of Liberal Arts, and the Division of Academic Affairs, based on the program review conducted in November 2018, followed by a UPRC report in spring 2019. It describes the goals to be achieved, and the actions to be undertaken by all parties to this MOU to achieve these goals, during the next program review cycle. Progress toward goals is to be addressed in the annual report.

The minor in Jewish Studies was established in 1999. The BA was first offered as a stand-alone degree in the 2006-07 academic year. The Jewish Studies program is housed in the History Department. The major is interdisciplinary and draws on existing courses offered in several departments in the college.

The program has made good progress in meeting the four recommendations set forth in the previous MOU signed in March 2013. The JSP established a Faculty Advisory Board, revised its student and program learning outcomes, and hired a part-time instructor to offer coursework in Judaism.

Strengths of the program include:

1. Talented and hardworking faculty. The JSP Director, Dr. Jeffrey Blutinger, has been very resourceful in program operations and in providing assistance to support the academic success of our students.
2. Since 2008, when the JSP gave its first the Jewish Studies student award, it has awarded more than \$100,000 to CSULB students.
3. HIST 304 (History of the Holocaust). Since 2007, Dr. Blutinger has offered up to half a dozen students per class to participate in a service learning project that involves interviewing local Holocaust survivors, followed by a luncheon for survivors, students, and members of the community can come together.
4. Excellent community outreach and programming. The JSP offers an annual Teacher Training Workshop on the Holocaust, wherein teachers from the region are invited to receive pedagogical training in how to teach the Holocaust. In the last nine years the program has trained several hundred area teachers in how to teach this subject. In

addition, the JSP hosts a speakers' series (around ten a year), and actively partners with the Long Beach Jewish Film Festival, as well as maintains close connections with groups such as Beach Hillel, the Alpert Jewish Community Center, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Long Beach.

Concerns identified in the program review process include:

1. The external reviewers questioned whether the funding of the Assigned Time for Dr. Blutinger should be borne by the Alpert Chair, or the Dean's office, and recommended that the Alpert endowment be allocated specifically for Hebrew courses, professional development and research of JSP faculty, and for the JSP program.
2. There has been a significant loss of tenured/tenure-track faculty capable of teaching JSP courses due to retirement or other career choices. In 2007, the JSP had ten affiliated faculty members and now only has two tenured faculty and 4 part time lecturers who will be able to teach 12 JSP-affiliated courses.
3. Reviewers note that while enrollment in various Jewish Studies courses remains "robust," the low number of majors (at the end of 2018, one major and minor respectively) remains a concern.

Opportunities for the JSP include:

1. Because the degree is interdisciplinary, coordinated assessment of PLOs with courses taught outside of the program is challenging. The program has recently revised its Program Learning Outcomes, and this represents an opportunity to restructure program-level assessment into a more meaningful framework, and possibly tying the courses together at the capstone level.
2. Increasing web outreach and modifying curriculum (See external reviewer recommendations) to build interest in the Program.
3. Revitalizing the JSP Faculty Advisory Board and holding more events on campus to increase student involvement with potential donors and the lecture series.


It is therefore agreed that:

1. The JSP Director will work with the Director of Program Review and Assessment to use the newly revised Program Learning Outcomes in developing a sustainable and meaningful program-level assessment plan, and report results of assessments annually to the Director and to the Vice Provost for Academic Programs.
2. The JSP will revise the program website to include the Program mission and possibly also social media links, for more visibility and to attract more students.
3. The JSP will consider a range of strategies to increase enrollments, including but not limited to updating and re-classifying lower-division courses, offering appropriate courses online or in hybrid format, and reducing the number of units in the major.

4. The JSP Director will continue revitalization of the Faculty Advisory Board.
5. The JSP will consider converting the Holocaust Teacher Training program into a certificate program.
6. The Dean will work with the Program Director to develop a financial plan for use of the Alpert Endowment.
7. As budget allows, the Dean will support the program in hiring tenure track faculty in the area of Jewish Studies.

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Program Director:  Date: _____
Jeffrey Blutinger

College Dean:  Date: 4/24/20
David Wallace

Vice Provost:  Date: 4/26/20
Jody Cormack