



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Memorandum of Understanding

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Department Chair/Program Director: Barbara Kim Date: 4/22/2022
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Department of Asian and Asian American Studies,
College of Liberal Arts
February 2022

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the consensus reached by the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies (AAAS), the College of Liberal Arts, and the Division of Academic Affairs, based on the recently conducted program review (Self-study in November 2019, external review site visit in April 2021, and UPRC report in February 2022). 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 an annual report.

The Department offers Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Asian Studies, Asian American Studies, Chinese Studies, and Japanese. The offer Master of Arts Degree in Asian Studies with Options in Chinese Studies, and Japanese Language and Pedagogy. They have several minors including Asian American Studies, Chinese Language and Culture, Japanese Language and Culture, Korean Language and Culture, and Khmer (Cambodian) Language and Culture. Finally, they offer a certificate in Asian Studies.

The last MOU for the Department was in 2012. They have made progress in all areas: 1) implementing curriculum revision and restructuring, including the creation of AAAS 100 and AAAS 492 to strengthen curricular coherency; 2) added multiple minors to enable students to pursue a language minor while majoring in another field and remaining within the 120 units; 3) restructured the MA program and continued to revise based on student feedback and requirements of EO 1071; 4) conducted multiple assessments and reported on assessments throughout the review cycle. One last MOU action was to work with the college on faculty hiring needs. Faculty hiring continues to be a need expressed by both the external reviewers and within the departments self-study for this current review cycle.

A number of strengths were identified in the reports, including: 1) the clear rationale and mission of the programs, as well as their relevance; 2) the Department has decreased their time to degree in both FTF and Transfers; 3) the Department has increased lower division FTES; and, 4) the student-centered focus of the graduate program.

Areas of Concern and Opportunities for Development include: 1) Faculty resources – 1/3 of the Department's tenured faculty in a two-year period, and the Department does not have adequate faculty resources to grow and develop undergraduate and graduate programs; 2) the low number of applications and enrollments in the Master's program has made it difficult to run required graduate courses, resulting in TT faculty taking on uncompensated directed

studies to ensure students can meet their graduation requirements. While the program has courses in other disciplines that satisfy elective requirements, offering core required courses continues to be a challenge and raises doubts about the viability of the MA program in its current form; 3) the Department has carried out assessments, but need to develop a curriculum map and assessment plans for all programs, including the Master's program. The Department is then encouraged to analyze direct assessment results and integrate assessment into curriculum and program improvement; 4) the Department is investigating adding more service-learning opportunities into their curriculum, and they are encouraged to continue this development. Research/Creative Activity opportunities are another high impact practice that should be considered; 5) The Department has a mission, but it is not readily located on the website.

It is therefore agreed that the Department will:

1. Add the department mission statement in an easily identifiable location to the website.
2. Develop a strategic hiring plan with the College based on available resources to address future FERP retirements and develop a plan to ensure that all degrees and courses have adequate faculty support. This plan may include strategic hiring of tenure track faculty and/or lecturer faculty with expertise in niche areas, as resources permit. This plan may also require the Department and College to consider the viability of offering all of its current degrees, options, and courses.
3. Develop a strategic plan focusing on course offering coordination as resources allow, investigating trends in undergraduate and graduate student enrollment and engaging in strategic planning for specific programs experiencing a decline (including possibly restructuring and/or discontinuing some of the under-enrolled programs).
4. Continue assessments of undergraduate and graduate programs using direct and indirect methods and report on closing the loop activities to illustrate that continuous learning outcome data are used to inform decision making, providing an annual update (due June 1) on progress made towards MOU actions to the CLA dean, the Vice Provost for Academic Programs, and the Coordinator of Program Review and Assessment. The review cycle will be from 2020-2027. A comprehensive self-study will be due June 2027 for a 2027-28 program review process.
5. Partner with CLA staff and programs to enhance and increase engagement in service learning opportunities. Formalize service learning and internship opportunities with existing community organizations with which AAAS is already actively engaged and where appropriate.
6. Consider expanding opportunities for faculty/student research/creative activity collaboration.

The College of Liberal Arts and CSULB Administration will:

1. Provide support for future hiring of tenure track faculty as resources allow to address future retirement of tenured faculty who are part of the FERP.
2. Support the department in examining and prioritizing curricular areas of growth or coordination between offerings.
3. Coordinate with the Department to assess the graduate programs to determine what resources may be allocated to the program to determine if strengthening the MA program (as recommended in the prior MOU) is possible. Determine other models for providing graduate education to students if the current Master's program is deemed

non-viable. Provide a report with recommendations to the Vice Provost for Academic Programs within 2 years.