

ENVISIONING GLOBAL STUDIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INTERMIM PROGRESS REPORT

Prepared for CHASS chairs meeting, Nov. 18, 2003

Background

In October of 2003, Interim EVC William Jury charged an ad hoc committee of seven faculty members to envision a possible undergraduate major at UCR in Global Studies. CHASS, CNAS, BCOE, AGSM, and GSOE all have representation on the committee. The committee charge arose from recommendations made by a task force on international education at UCR during 2002-2003. The Committee on Global Studies is to make its report to Interim EVC Jury by March, 2004. Members of the committee include Professors Lynda Bell (chair), Christopher Chase-Dunn, E. Mark Hanson, Augustine Kposowa, Michel L. Lapidus, Parama Roy, and Kambiz Vafai.

Rationale

Global Studies as an undergraduate major is blossoming throughout the UC system and, indeed, at many major universities throughout the United States. Several UC campuses have undergraduate majors either in global studies or international studies, often with hundreds of students opting for these majors. UC Santa Barbara's major in Global Studies has grown from 50 to 700 hundred students in the past five years. There is a compelling interest and need among American undergraduate students in studying problems that affect the entire world, and in preparing for eventual careers that require knowledge and experience in various ways in the international arena.

What is Global Studies?

Although the term "Global Studies" is thrown around quite a bit these days in academe, the UCR Committee on Global Studies believes it is incumbent upon us to define what we mean by this term for UCR, and to create a truly unique, trans-college program for undergraduates that will include study of problems that influence the development of the entire world. Potentially we would like to propose a major that is trans-college in nature, with a **new core curriculum sequence at the lower-division level** introducing a very wide range of issues related to globalization, both historically and in the contemporary world. At the upper division level, we envision **several concentrations** that will allow students to focus their efforts on distinctive subsets of issues related to globalization (to include problem-oriented study of such things as social organization in relationship to environmental and technological change, global political economies, and global cultures). Working knowledge of at least one language in addition to English would be required of Global Studies majors. Study abroad (for credit toward the major) for at least one summer and preferably for a summer and one fall or spring term would be an expectation. Structured pre-professional internships for academic credit, either at home or abroad, would be a strong goal for students opting for certain concentrations within the Global Studies major.

Progress to Date and the Need for Faculty Collaboration

The ad hoc faculty Committee on Global Studies has been meeting regularly since mid-October. **We now want to reach out to a broader spectrum of faculty throughout all colleges at UCR.**

Our goal is to form work groups of faculty which members of the Committee on Global Studies will lead, to design sub-sets of an overall plan for curriculum development. In some cases, we will need thoughts for new curriculum (and perhaps even for new FTE); in other instances, we hope the work groups can identify already existing courses, and groups of courses, that could form the foundation for a Global Studies undergraduate major. We would also like these work groups to formulate recommendations for potential graduate student involvement in global studies projects of various types, either in terms of research goals or in terms of assisting in teaching of undergraduate course sequences. The work groups will convene in January of 2004 and will complete their work by the end of February. This will mean intensive consultation and collaboration over a two-month period. **We hope to enlist the help of the chairs of every department, and the deans of each college, in identifying faculty who may want to participate in this broad-based collaborative effort.**

Short-term vs. Long-term Goals

The short-term goal of the Committee on Global Studies is very clear: we intend to wrap up our deliberations and make a report to Interim EVC Jury by the end of March, 2004. In that report, we are planning to make recommendations about both short-term planning and longer-term goals. We will certainly be making some very large and (to us) obvious claims, based on intellectual and empirical evidence, concerning the importance of Global Studies and the need (and opportunity) to think and act quickly and decisively. We may propose some very large long-term goals, such as putting UCR in the running to become a location for a Department of Education Title VI Center in Global Studies. We believe that this would require the EVC, in conjunction with one or more deans, to consider making one or more senior FTE appointments to head up a **Program in Global Studies**.

Clearly, the evidence nationwide suggests that the formation of academic programs devoted to understanding the problems of the world in the 21st century is a vital next step in the internationalizing of American universities. UCR could stand at the forefront of this movement because of our already-existing strengths across several colleges in the research and study of problems related to globalization. What we now should demonstrate is our ability and will to grow further in this direction.

FACULTY WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN HELPING FORMULATE THE GLOBAL STUDIES MAJOR AT UCR MAY CONTACT LYNDA BELL BY E-MAIL: Lynda.Bell@ucr.edu.