DATE: 2008 May 8  
TO: Wendy Larson, CAS Dean  
FROM: The 2007-8 CAS Curriculum Committee [CASCC]  
Alan Kimball, Principal Reviewer  
Hal Sadofsky, CASCC Chair for 2007-8  
SUBJECT: Proposal for a Major in Latin American Studies [LAS] submitted by Carlos Aguirre, Latin American Studies Committee

CASCC reviewed and unanimously approved the enclosed the LAS Committee proposal for a major in Latin American Studies.

The major builds on the current and thriving LAS minor degree program. It complements the Romance Language Department’s Spanish major, and it employs a significant suite of courses offered regularly in the History Department. The Spanish and History departments wrote strong letters of support for the LAS proposal.

We found the proposal to be well-structured and coherently described, and academically sound. The goal of the LAS Committee is to provide students with a general and concentrated knowledge of Latin America from a multidisciplinary perspective. The major will add further visibility to the University of Oregon in a field that has not been regularly supported by any other academic institution in the state.

CASCC submits this letter of transmittal at this time in order to facilitate approval sometime in the next academic year. CASCC does this with the understanding that two issues will have to be resolved before the new major can actually go into effect. The LAS proposal itself acknowledges that implementation of the new major requires that they submit for approval through regular curriculum-review processes, requests for the following two items:

1. A new UO catalog rubric, LAS, and
2. Four new courses -- LAS 200, 211, 212, and 407 (a new capstone seminar).

In addition to these two further actions (but not requiring UO approval above the program level), the LAS Committee is anxious to harmonize its current minor degree program with the new major requirements and its new set of courses, once all of that is approved and implemented.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The Latin American Studies Committee requested that the major be operational as soon as Spring 2009, but certainly no later than Fall 2009. CASCC believes this is possible if the new rubric and four new courses are submitted next fall for review at the college level, followed by university review in the winter. In the meantime, the proposal for the LAS Major would proceed to the provost for review at university and state board levels. It is our hope that the new major, along with its supporting new courses, would gain all necessary approvals as early as the end of winter term 2009, for listing in the UOCC Winter 2009 Curriculum Report to the Senate as effective spring term 2009.

Approved Wendy Larson, CAS Dean

CAS Endors Latin Amer St major Sp08.doc
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May 22, 2008