Meeting of the Department of Languages & Cultures, February 5, 2015

Present: Eileen Doll (Chair), Dittmar Dittrich, Isabel Durocher, Bill Farge, Alice Kornovich, Lisbeth Philip, Uriel Quesada, Peter Rogers, Genesis Rodas.

The chair, Eileen Doll, made a number of announcements.

a. The search for a French instructor position now has more than 60 applications.
   b. Early Warning notifications are now due.
   c. The chair will be doing an evaluation of each of the full-time people to give to the Dean.
   d. Lisa Philip has done more updates to the website; events, achievements, pictures, and any changes are to be sent to Lisa who will update monthly.
   e. News from the Senate: the old library will be demolished after the President’s Open House, an interim dean will be appointed for the law school for two years, and there was a motion introduced against the renaming of HNS as Loyola College.
   f. The 23rd Central American Literature and Culture Conference will take place March 11-13 at Tulane and Loyola. We will receive additional information. We are invited to participate, and to join the opening and closing receptions.

The chair talked about some issues that had come up in the Teaching Certification program. Our department WAL courses are not working at present since the certification program specifies they are to be “English” courses, which is translating as ENGL prefix classes. Also, our CAC courses do not work for the program as students need to take a performing arts course. These issues will be further explored with Jane Chauvin.

Isabel Durocher gave a report on her attendance at the ACTFL Conference in November of 2014. She said that a current focus or goal for many language departments is that of “reaching global competence,” the ability to communicate with respect and understanding in another language. This approach encourages the teaching of culture and consciously trying to move students from an ethnocentric to an ethno-relative position. At our meeting in March, we will brainstorm and share teaching ideas.

The chair asked about any problems with sharing our administrative assistant, Avia Alonzo. It was commented that there is, at times, too much time spent recreationally in the department office.

There were some updates on the short-term goals for the department.

a. Bill Farge is working to revise the Asian Studies Minor.
   b. The Translation-Interpretation Major will be developed by Uriel Quesada, Lisbeth Philip, and Eileen Doll.
   c. Dittmar Dittrich will teach a new experimental course, “Films on Cuba,” in the fall which will be listed as LAS ACC, and CAC.
   d. We are currently seeking a part-time instructor for Chinese in the fall. Eileen Doll is pursuing leads.
   e. A new project for Early Scholars in being prepared, allowing them to take a
300-level course that Josefa Salmón will teach. Cabrini High School students may participate, and other students could be included.

f. New Common Curriculum courses are needed.

g. We need to publicize our courses and work with advisors to better attract and retain students taking our courses. We tend to lose numbers of students in the spring.

h. We could work with Study Abroad to do training in cultural sensitivity.

In terms of long-term goals, the following were mentioned:

a. Adding 1 hour online to 100-level courses in order to facilitate collaboration with Tulane. This project will begin with Spanish.

b. We will try to add courses that could work as part of the film-studies minor.

c. We have talked about adding an “umbrella” major such as International Studies, but Uriel Quesada told us that history is already developing an interdisciplinary International History Studies program which may have an impact on a program we would develop.

d. Uriel Quesada is also designing a Comparative Studies major which would combine 2 areas or 2 minors to become a major, thus offering a more flexible curriculum. Our minors may be able to participate well in such a program.

e. Uriel Quesada and Peter Rogers will investigate what other universities are offering in terms of language programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Minutes taken by Eileen Doll and Alice Kornovich
Approved 3/3/15