BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

The Ohio State University
Master of Arts in Latin American Studies

Recommendation

The proposed Master of Arts (M.A.) in Latin American Studies clearly meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degree programs. There were no serious concerns raised in the review, and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimous approval for the new program.

Request: The Ohio State University requests approval for a new interdisciplinary M.A. in Latin American Studies.

Program Purpose/Mission: The proposed M.A. in Latin American Studies is an interdisciplinary degree that can be applied to a number of professional and/or academic careers. The program is designed to prepare students from a variety of undergraduate backgrounds (e.g. international relations and diplomacy, economic development and globalization, language and literature, history and anthropology, or business and economics) who would like to continue their studies in order to acquire broader knowledge of Latin America or concentrated training in specific disciplines and/or topics regarding Latin America. The program is designed to accommodate students who are: a) preparing to enter a discipline-specific Master's or Ph.D. program; b) complementing current enrollment in a discipline-specific M.A. or Ph.D. program with a second degree; or c) pursuing a career in government, secondary or post-secondary education, non-profit institutions with a cultural mission, or in professional areas such as law, journalism, or international business.

Enrollments: Enrollments of between 4 and 8 students annually are anticipated during the initial four years of the program. Ultimately, the university plans to admit up to 20 students annually.

Curriculum: A minimum of 45 quarter credit hours in graduate level courses is required of all students, including two required courses—International Studies 640, Globalization and Latin America: Interdisciplinary Approaches and a course in research methods. In consultation with an advisor and advisory committee, each student will choose or design two areas of concentration—a primary concentration (20 quarter credit hours) and a secondary concentration (15 quarter credit hours). At least 25 of the credits must be from courses with focused Latin American content. Students may choose to complete either a thesis or a non-thesis track, and a defined level of oral and written proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese is required.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources: The M.A. in Latin American Studies will be an interdisciplinary degree granted by the Ohio State Graduate School, administered by the Center for Latin American Studies, and overseen by the Latin American Studies Graduate Studies Committee. The program will be centered on the main campus of The Ohio State University, and administrative offices will be housed in the Center for Latin

American Studies and the Office of International Affairs, Oxley Hall. Existing facilities are adequate to support this program, since all academic elements that contribute to the proposed interdisciplinary program have been developed in support of the existing disciplinary programs. No significant additional expenditures are required beyond those already planned through the different departments and disciplinary programs associated with Latin American Studies, the library, and the Office of International Affairs. Faculty costs are absorbed entirely by the disciplinary departments. The state-of-the-art Foreign Language Center, located in Hagerty Hall, offers a series of services for language instruction, including a wide array of telecommunications technologies. The AT&T Individualized Language Learning Center (ILLC) facility is equipped with hardware and educational software, and a testing lab where students can learn at their own pace.

Rationale and Need: The proposed program responds to the academic needs of Ohio State's undergraduate and graduate students, as well as non-Ohio State students who frequently inquire about such a program. The program will serve Ohio State undergraduate students who desire to continue their education with graduate studies, and Ohio State graduate students who wish to complement their existing degree program with a second degree specific to Latin American studies. The proposed program will address the continuing, often unmet intellectual and practical needs of people in business, government and education, to engage, knowledgably and sensitively, with the peoples of a strategically, economically and culturally vital region.

End of Comment Period: February 22, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

Approved	3/4/10
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

mlc