



International Studies Institute
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To: Mark Peceny, Ph.D., Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, UNM
Karen Gardner, College of Arts and Sciences, UNM

From: Eleni Bastéa, Ph.D., Regents' Professor of Architecture
Director, International Studies Institute, UNM

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eleni Bastéa".

Date: 25 August 2014

International Studies Program Response to the External Review Team Report, Academic Program Review

I. Introduction

As part of the Academic Program Review (APR) process, the International Studies Institute (ISI), which comprises the undergraduate academic programs of International Studies, Asian Studies, and European Studies, completed its comprehensive Self-Study Report in August 2013.

The site visit by the External Review Team, composed of Ginette Ishimatsu (University of Denver), Joseph Jupille (University of Colorado Boulder), and Walter Putnam (University of New Mexico), occurred on 30 September –1 October 2013. On 15 October 2013, the chair of the External Review Team submitted the team's report to the APR Office, the Dean's Office, and to the director and associate director of the International Studies Institute, Eleni Bastéa and Christine Sauer, who shared it with Asian Studies director, Lorie Brau, and European Studies director, Steve Bishop.

The ISI Board met on 24 February 2014 to review the Report and consider possible strategies. Eleni Bastéa and Christine Sauer also met with Dean Peceny on 18 April 2014 to discuss possible future directions. The following response is drawn from the above meetings as well as from on-going conversations with the faculty involved.

II. Summary of External Review Team Report Recommendations

Praising the dedication and excellent work of all the directors, their commitment to students, and the impressive results borne out of meagre means, the Report recommended:

- **“Elimination of the ES [European Studies] and AS [Asian Studies] programs** and the accommodation of those students under the ISI [International Studies] umbrella.”
- **Addition of a “gateway course”** that “would introduce students to international studies as an academic area, helping majors to understand what questions are asked in the field, what skills and knowledge they are likely to gain as majors, and how to think about cross-cultural experiences in preparation for study abroad. In addition, the course would allow for an entry-level cohort experience, something that is lacking under the current program. Moreover, the course would complement the capstone course, which requires critical analysis of and reflection on the study abroad or domestic intercultural experience.”
- **Merging the two capstone seminars**, one of students who studied abroad and one for those who did not, into one, in order to provide “both groups with the chance to interact

with one another and to discover commonalities and differences in cross-cultural interactions, whether international or domestic.”

- **Streamlining course offerings and highlighting courses that fulfill major requirements.** That would not only provide needed cohesion to the curriculum, it would create a stronger sense of community among the students and address the currently unsustainable advising.
- **Additional advising support for director/associate director**
- **Additional SAC for director/associate director**
- **The addition of a regular Lecturer to teach the Gateway course and Capstone Seminar.** “The lack of dedicated faculty severely hampers the growth and sustainability of the program which needs to run on institutional support and not on the good will of borrowed faculty. . . . It seems imperative to create a more permanent Lecturer position within the ISI in order to deliver regular capstone courses and to expand the offerings to include a gateway course.”
- **Provide additional office space for the faculty and GA and a common meeting place for students.**

The Report concluded:

“Long-term success cannot be achieved solely by the unlimited and uncompensated work of even the most competent and dedicated Directors. With UNM's prioritization of internationalization, with broad-based discussion of inter- and multi-disciplinarity, with recent hires in critical languages in FLL, and with hope of area hires in affiliated departments around campus, there seems to be the framework for broader, deeper support of the ISI's mission at the University of New Mexico.”

III. ISI Reflections and Proposals

The ISI team is in agreement with the Report's general recommendations, including the incorporation of European Studies and Asian Studies into International Studies, and looks forward to collaborating with the administration to bring about the necessary changes and improvements.

Developing and delivering a strong curriculum to the IS majors and minors is our first priority. The International Studies spectacular success has put also a spectacular burden on all involved not only to meet the current needs but also to set the foundations for **an intellectually robust and sustainable interdisciplinary program.** For that, we need to go beyond Band-Aid solutions and bring forth a bold vision that takes into account the program's future growth and potential in tandem with the focus on international education embraced by UNM's leadership.

Success is not measured only by the number of majors and minors and by the endless hours of advising that the current directors contribute to these students. It is measured, also, by the depth and quality of the curriculum, the consistent and high expectations it places on the students, evidence of aptitude and achievement on their part, future academic and career success, and national academic reputation of our International Studies major.

It is impossible to develop and deliver a dedicated curriculum in International Studies while existing parasitically within the College and the University. The current structure that “borrows” all courses, including the introductory one, compromises the discipline of International Studies, a field with its own body of knowledge and scholarly methodology. At the moment, International Studies is equated by many on campus simply with “studying abroad.” That would be akin to equating archaeology with studying in Italy for a semester. **It is crucial that ISI hire at least one full-time lecturer** who will develop a **dedicated IS gateway course**, as proposed by the Report. Similarly, “borrowing” the director and associate director for other departments has become unsustainable. **It is the College's responsibility to provide the financial and academic support for this robust and thriving major.** A program of this size cannot continue to rely on the good will of other

departments and programs. Equally important, it cannot develop its intellectual signature without the commitment **of dedicated faculty who are hired to teach International Studies and develop their teaching and scholarship in that area.**

According to the ISI Board, equally important is the **creation of a full time position for the ISI director**, who will oversee the programmatic and financial development of the Institute and the growth of the academic major. As the current director's term expires in 2015-16, a search for a director should begin then.

Another proposal for consideration is the separation of the positions, with the ISI director overseeing the Institute and the IS director overseeing the academic major.

Unless the administration commits the necessary funding for a long-term faculty position, the present faculty will be unable to meet the demands of the International Studies Program.

Advising: The College is to be commended for addressing the advising needs of the ISI majors. Arts & Sciences advisor Holly Meyer will begin to hold office hours for ISI students in the Humanities Building for at least three days a week, starting mid Fall 2014. Christine Sauer has been working with ISI Operations Specialist Jazmin Knight to create a master list of IS-approved courses and begin streamlining course offerings.

ISI Structure, 2014-15, 2015-16

- **Begin the process of phasing out European Studies and absorbing that major into International Studies.**
- For 2014-15, **Christine Sauer has agreed to be also the Director of European Studies** and over-see the transition, while Steve Bishop will be on a year-long sabbatical.
- **Provide SAC and two-semester course release for the ISI Associate Director, who has taken on the majority of the responsibility for student advising.**
- **Provide SAC or other compensation for faculty member responsible for student advising over the summer.**

A. Three -year plan (2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18):

1. **One full-time lecturer in International Studies for 2015-2016, with a minimum 2-year appointment.** Responsibilities to include:
 - a. "Introduction to International Studies." NEW 3-credits, to be required of all IS majors and minors and open to all undergraduates. The ISI team will prepare the course syllabus by September, 2014 and submit it for curriculum approval immediately. The course description will also be used for the hiring advertisement.
 - b. Capstone Seminar INTS 400 3 credits.
 - c. Topics in International Studies INTS 499 3 credits, a course that was approved for Spring 2015 and could be cross-listed with other departments and programs.
 - d. Advising (if teaching load permits)
2. **Create attractive buy-out options for UNM faculty to teach in International Studies along the principles used in the Honors College.** This will engage more UNM faculty in International Studies and help enrich our offerings and future direction.
3. **Advertise for a full-time position for an ISI director, starting 2016-17.**

ISI will continue to support hiring proposals in other departments that are also beneficial to our students. We would welcome the joint hiring of a tenure-track or tenured professor who could split his/her responsibilities between ISI and another department, with expertise in one of the following: International Studies, East Asia, the Middle East, and Russia/Eurasia.