

DRAFT  
Memorandum of Understanding

Africana Studies  
College of Liberal Arts  
September 2017

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the consensus reached by the Department of Africana Studies, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Division of Academic Affairs, based on the department's program review. It describes the goals to be achieved, and the actions to be undertaken by all parties to this MOU to achieve these goals, during the next program review cycle. Progress toward goals is to be addressed in the biennial report.

The Department of Africana Studies offers a BA, a minor, and a certificate in Africana Studies. The department last underwent program review in 2008. In the period since the previous review, the department has changed the name of the department and academic programs from Black Studies to Africana Studies to reflect changes in the discipline as well as the global scope of the curriculum. In addition, the department has joined with other ethnic studies programs in a statewide campaign to incorporate ethnic studies in California public schools.

Reviewers praised the faculty a "a pool of dedicated, high quality faculty who work very hard to deliver a curriculum supported by the CSU, Cal State University Long Beach, and Africana Studies mission statements." Other strengths of the department identified by the review included the scope of the BA program, the variety of academic programs available to students, including a service-learning course in partnership with the College of Business Administration.

Areas identified by the review process for further attention or future action included alternative instructional formats such as hybrid or fully online courses; the latter would open up enrollments to students across the CSU. Reviewers suggested that areas such as gender, technology, and business might be added to the curriculum, but also advised the department to consider areas where the curricular offering could be reduced. It was also suggested that the department consider reducing the number of units in the minor and the certificate, in keeping with the university's recent reduction of the minimum units required for each. Reducing the number of required units would make the minor and the certificate more attractive to and feasible for students, as many minors and certificates across campus have adopted lower unit requirements to allow students to add these objectives and still graduate in a timely way.

The reviewers noted that Africana Studies majors are not graduating in a timely manner, and suggested that time to degree could be reduced by scheduling required courses on a regular basis.

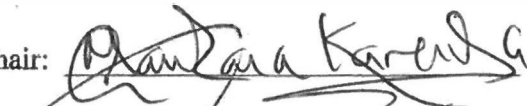
In respect to the assessment of student learning, the external reviewers encouraged the department to further develop its assessment program and to consider developing assessment strategies and measures focused on learning specific to the discipline of Africana Studies. The review also recommended areas for improvement of departmental assessment of student learning.

It is therefore agreed that:

1. The department will revise the curriculum map for the BA, will revise the program learning outcomes (PLOs) so that the language is active and measurable, will consider reducing the number of PLOs, and will continue the assessments begun in 2012 to ensure appropriate student learning outcomes for each course. The department will continue to assessment of GE courses and PLOs
2. The department will continue to review and revise required courses and will work to ensure adequate scheduling of required courses to enable students' timely graduation.
3. The department will work with the CLA advising office (ATLAS) to examine time to graduation, and will implement measures to reduce time to degree.
4. The department will explore the development of online courses to strengthen enrollments and make its curriculum accessible to students across the CSU.
5. The department will consider reducing the number of units required for the minor and the certificate in Africana Studies.
6. The program will provide a biennial update on progress made towards the actions agreed to in this MOU, to be submitted in conjunction with its biennial assessment report submitted to the Vice Provost and the Director of Program Review and Assessment.

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Department Chair:



Date:

7/10/19

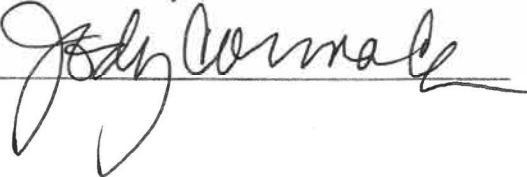
College Dean:



Date:

5-1-19

Vice Provost:



Date:

7-11-19