



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Memorandum of Understanding

Classics

College of Liberal Arts

March 2019 (for 2017 review)

The Classics program offers a BA in Classics with options Roman Civilization and Greek Civilization. It offers minors in Classical Studies, Latin, and Greek. The Program has 3 tenure-track faculty and additional lecturer faculty.

Since the time of the last MOU in 2010, the Classics program has not met any of the agreed upon action items, including: 1) creation of a civil and cooperative work climate; 2) development of a unified mission and objectives applicable to both CWL and Classics programs; 3) assessment using direct measures of student learning; 4) streamline of the major and restructuring of the BA in Classics; and 5) consider feasibility of developing a Master's degree program.

The Department of Comparative World Literature and Classics was assessed by self-review in 2014/2016 and an external review in 2017. After the external review, the Department and the Faculty Council of the College of Liberal Arts voted to separate the Department into 2 separate programs. The Dean, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Provost supported this separation. Therefore, this Memorandum of Understanding will discuss the consensus reached by the Classics Program, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Division of Academic Affairs. 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 annual report.

A number of strengths were identified in the Classics program review reports.

- The Latin teaching credential is a unique program that provides a valuable service for the region and is well-regarded.
- The GE offerings are strong, offering some of the campus' most popular courses. CLSC 101 Greek Mythology, CLSC 300 Pagan Culture, CLSC 130 Women in the Classical World, and CLSC 350 Hollywood does Rome were noted as highly successful GE courses.
- The program has high-quality instruction provided by dedicated faculty.
- Classics majors have an active honors society, Eta Sigma Phi, with frequent events, activities and gatherings.

Areas of Concern and Opportunities for Development were noted in the reports.

- Overall, the number of tenure/tenure-track faculty for Classics and Comparative World Literature has declined overall from 12 to 6 in the last 10 years. The 6 current tenured faculty are all full professors, and potential retirements threaten to further decimate the faculty infrastructure.

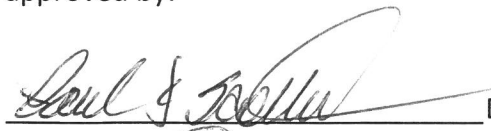
- A prominent focus on archeology can be viewed as a positive and also as an area of concern. Although the number of courses (4 additional upper-division courses added since the last review) and the training experiences at excavation sites offer distinct and valuable opportunities for students, this focus may also preclude inclusion of more traditional Classics programming.
- The number of student undergraduate majors has dropped considerably – roughly 39% from 28 in 2012 to 17 in 2016.
- Limited Upper Division offerings affecting Academic Progression. Independent Studies is used to fill in gaps for courses not offered.
- A traditional focus on language acquisition of Greek or Latin may be limiting interest in the major. Also, those going on to PhD studies in the field typically need some exposure to both Greek and Latin. For those students not planning on post-baccalaureate study, the program has not significantly change the BA requirements to meet changes within the field.

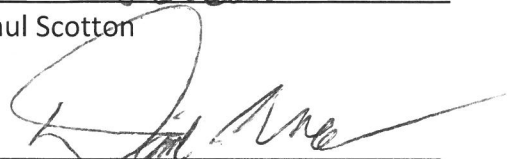
It is therefore agreed that:

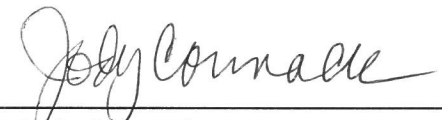
1. The Classics Program will develop and implement a continuous program of assessment of institutional, programmatic, and student learning outcomes across the curriculum. This includes General Education offerings, and the Bachelor's program. This assessment should also include a revised comprehensive curriculum map, and a substantive assessment plan detailing "closing the loop" strategies.
2. The Classics Program will provide an annual update (due June 1) on progress made towards the actions agreed to in this MOU to the CLA dean, the Vice Provost for Academic Programs, and the Director of Program Review and Assessment. Assessment for student and program learning outcomes will be completed for the BA program. The review cycle will be from 2017-2024. A comprehensive self-study will be due June 2024 for 2024-2025 Academic Year external review/UPRC report process.
3. The Classics Program will formulate and communicate a strong mission to increase awareness and understanding of the programs, and to help to stabilize enrollments. In addition, Program Learning Outcomes will be written in active, measurable language.
4. The Program will establish an outreach program to local high schools and their students, and promote the Latin teaching credential program to increase enrollments.
5. The Classics BA will restructure it's degree and streamline it's course offerings to bring it in alignment with current Classics content and pedagogy.
 - a. The program will consider reducing or eliminating the language requirements.
 - b. The program will consider consolidating the options Roman Civilization and Greek Civilization into a single emphasis that formally requires a level of training in both languages.
 - c. The program will consider developing a course on ancient etymologies and/or medical terminology.

6. The College will work with the Program to consider a cohort model for the BA program, particularly the Upper Division courses. Given the limited number of courses that can be offered, this would allow for courses to be offered more infrequently, but still within the program of study for each student.
7. The College will work with the Program to establish a tenure-track hiring plan based on the needs of the undergraduate students that the Programs serve.

This MOU has been read and approved by:

Classics Program Chair:  Date: 8/7/2019
Paul Scotton

College of Liberal Arts Dean:  Date: 8/8/19
David Wallace

Vice Provost Academic Programs:  Date: 8-21-19
Jody Cormack