



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Memorandum of Understanding Comparative World Literature

College of Liberal Arts

March 2019 (for 2017 review)

Comparative World Literature (CWL) offers a BA, with Emphases in World Literature in Translation, Cultural Studies, and Language and Literature. It also offers a minor in Comparative World Literature. The Program has 3 tenure-track faculty and additional lecturer faculty.

Since the time of the last MOU in 2010, the Comparative World Literature (CWL) 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 programs; 3) assessment using direct measures of student learning; 4) consider feasibility of developing a Master's degree program. The CWL Program has streamlined the major as recommended in the previous MOU.

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 only the CWL program, and it will outline the consensus reached by the CWL 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 CWL program review reports.

- The program successfully streamlined the degree by reducing and combining the available pathways. Most significantly, it eliminated a rigorous foreign language requirement in the Translation and Cultural Studies emphases that contributed to problems with Academic Progression.
- Although enrollments in the major are down nationally, CWL has a mild upward trend in enrollments from 38 in 2012 to 43 in 2016.
- The program has well-designed courses taught by high-quality faculty.
- Although GE FTES are down, the program has responded by adding new courses that are attractive to current students. The external reviewer noted Courses such as CWL 205 Digital Literature and Culture, CWL 213 Comics and Graphic Novels, and CWL 305 Science Fiction and Global Technologies, and commended the program faculty for their imagination, initiative, and a considerable investment of time and energy in course development.
- Facilitation of a strong student experience – undergraduate majors appeared to the

- external reviewer to form a thriving and close-knit community.
- Good persistence within the degree, and good graduation rates.
- Annual Comparative Literature Conference and journal *Genre* which immerse students in scholarly activity within the discipline. Also an increased attention to internships both on and off the campus.

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

- Overall, the number of tenure/tenure-track faculty (CWL/Classics combined) has declined overall from 12 to 6 in the last 10 years. Recent hires in CWL have left the Department prior to tenure, or were not granted tenure. The 6 current tenured faculty are all full professors, and potential retirements threaten to further decimate the faculty infrastructure.
- The program does not offer courses Asian and African World Literatures, and Literary Theory courses are also under-represented.
- Lack of course offerings leading to a non-cohesive degree experience.

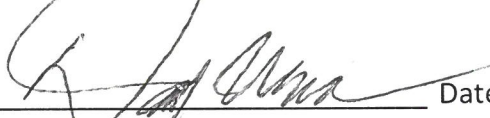
It is therefore agreed that:

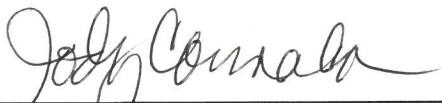
1. The CWL Program will develop and implement a continuous program of assessment of institutional, programmatic, and student learning outcomes across the curriculum. This includes General Education offerings, and the Bachelor's program. This assessment should also include a revised comprehensive curriculum map, and a substantive assessment plan detailing "closing the loop" strategies.
2. The CWL 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 CWL Program will formulate and communicate a strong mission to increase awareness and understanding of the program to help stabilize enrollments. In addition, Program Learning Outcomes will be written in active, measurable language.
4. The CWL Program will develop connections to other programs to offer dual majors and interdisciplinary minors.
5. The CWL Program will evaluate offerings to ensure a cohesive degree experience for students. The will consider the feasibility of offering courses in Asian and African World Literatures, and Literary Theory.
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 Program serves.

This MOU has been read and approved by:

CWL Program Chair:  Date: 8/20/19

College of Liberal Arts Dean:  Date: 8/20/19
David Wallace

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