This Self-Study Report of the Department of Anthropology is based on quantitative and qualitative data on the following categories: (1) the Department’s undergraduate and graduate programs, faculty, students, support staff, and resources; (2) outcomes of the FY2003-FY05 Academic Program Review; (3) current strengths and limitations of the Department; (4) goals and objectives to be achieved within the next five years; and (5) rationale and implementation strategies of these goals.

The Undergraduate and Graduate programs are growing and thriving. Our rates of enrollment and rates of retention, progression, and graduation (RPG) are, according to former Provost Ron Henry, “among the highest of the University.” Correspondingly, the instructional component of the Programs are insufficient to meet the demand by students for a greater number and variety of courses to (1) serve the needs of the undergraduate major to reinforce and advance even higher RPG rates; and (2) increase the feasibility and quality of the graduate program by attracting more competitive students.

The Department met successfully every goal identified in the last Self-Study. Due to the full endorsement of the last Action Plan by the Dean’s and Provost’s Office, the Department received all the hiring requests, including replacement hires and two new hires in archaeological and biological anthropology respectively. The Department also received the requested new research and instructional lab space, as well as an increase of funding packages for graduate students.

According to the present Self Study, the current strengths of the Department include (1) the quality of its faculty and students; (2) the increase in credit-hour generation in the undergraduate major and the graduate program; (3) the increase in RPG rates; (4) the representation of three out of four sub-disciplines (archaeological, biological, and sociocultural anthropology) in the curriculum; and (5) adequacy in research and instructional laboratories.
The current limitations of the Department include (1) limited curriculum commensurate with the number of undergraduate majors and graduate students; (2) limited curriculum with respect to a variety of courses; (3) limited curriculum due to the lack of linguistic anthropology as the fourth sub-discipline of anthropology to complete the major and graduate program; (4) insufficient graduate funding relative to the number of graduate students; and (5) insufficient external funding relative to the criteria of the College, justifiable in part by the behavioral and humanistic content areas of anthropology for which federal grants are scarce.

The mission based on the new Self-Study is the establishment of a Ph.D. Program in Anthropology by the end of this Review cycle. Our goals include (1) an increase in external funding among the faculty; (2) promotions of assistant professors to the rank of associate professors with tenure, and of associate professors to the rank of full professor; (3) an extended and more diversified curriculum for the major and graduate program; and (4) new hires to strengthen our feasibility as a competitive and unique Ph.D. Program in Anthropology in the country.

To this end, the department seeks the following resources: (1) a Lecturer who would teach 7-8 lower-division courses a year, releasing the tenure-track faculty to teach more and varied research-based upper-division courses and graduate seminars; and (2) four cluster hires in (a) language and culture, (b) urban archaeology/museum studies/cultural preservation, (c) urban processes, problems, and transnational populations and (d) primate genetics and evolution. With such hires we would be in a stronger position to develop and outstanding Doctoral Program in anthropology.