Self-Study Report
2006-2009
Department of Anthropology
Georgia State University

Kathryn A. Kozaitis, Chair

Academic Program Review Committee:

Frank Williams, Chair
Jennifer Patico
Despina Margomenou
Dear Dean Adamson:

Attached is the Self-Study Report of the Department of Anthropology for the period FY08-FY13. Consistent with the criteria of this document, we address every section on (1) description of the Department’s undergraduate and graduate programs, faculty, staff, and resources; (2) description of outcomes of the FY2003-FY2005 Academic Program Review; (3) data and analysis on the current strengths and limitations of the Department; (4) data and analysis on the 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 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; (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 for a competitive and unique Ph.D. Program in Anthropology.

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) Linguistic Anthropology, (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 an outstanding doctoral program in anthropology.

This Self-Study is the product of a collective, participatory effort by all the faculty members. Dr. Frank Williams, the Chair of the Self-Study Committee, and I held formal and informal discussions with each faculty throughout the year, and received from them feedback and written contributions on various sections of the Report according to one’s special area of interest or competency. Faculty read drafts of the Report, as well as the final version, and endorses the Report fully.

Thank you for your attention and support on the continued progress of the Department of Anthropology. We look forward to your evaluation, and to our work in building a stronger unit in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Kozaitis, Chair