GSU Service/Education Center Review Survey

Name of Center: Center for Hellenic Studies
Center Director: Dr. Nickitas J. Demos

Section A. General Information

1. When was the center created and to which department/college/office was it originally designated? If the designation has changed, in which department/college/office does the center currently reside?

The Center was created in 1998 and had two interim directors: Dr. Kathryn Kozaitis (2000-2002) followed by Dr. David Blumenfeld (2003-2004). In May, 2004, Dr. Nickitas J. Demos was named Director of the Center.

On May 2, 2005, Georgia State University formally announced the establishment of a new chair, the Andrew C. and Eula C. Carlos Family Founding Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies. The College of Arts and Sciences named Dr. Nickitas J. Demos, Professor of Music and Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies, as the first Carlos Chair holder.

The Center operates through the Director’s department within the College of Arts & Sciences: the School of Music. This was the designation after Dr. Demos was appointed Director. Prior, to this appointment, the Center resided directly within the College of Arts & Sciences and was not formally designated to any particular department.

2. To whom does the center's director report?

The Director reports directly to Dr. Gayle Nelson, Coordinator of International Programs for the College of Arts & Sciences.

3. If there is an advisory board to this center, describe its function and composition.

The Center has an advisory board whose function is chiefly to advise and assist the Director. The board is comprised of:

- Dr. Christos Galileas (School of Music)
- Dr. Kathryn A. Kozaitis (Chair, Department of Anthropology & Geography)
- Dr. Margo Alexander (Senior Lecturer, Department of Mathematics and Statistics)
- Dr. Louis Ruprecht, Jr. (Department of Religious Studies)
4. If the center is considered interdisciplinary, describe the interdisciplinary focus.

The Center for Hellenic Studies is considered interdisciplinary. Its primary focus has been within the Arts; specifically in the disciplines of Music, Visual Art and Literature. However, the Center has supported work in the area of Anthropology as well.

5. Describe in detail the amount of start-up support available.

Prior to 2005 and the establishment of the Andrew C. and Eula C. Carlos Family Founding Chair in Contemporary Greek Studies, the start-up support of the Center was at the discretion of the Office of the Dean, College of Arts & Sciences. With the establishment of the Chair in 2005, the Center start-up support was made available through the interest generated by a gift in the amount of $500,000.00. This gift was given by the American Foundation for Hellenic Studies and Mrs. Eula C. Carlos and is administered by the Georgia State University Foundation. The interest of this principal is approximately $20,000.00 - $25,000.00 a year depending upon the market. The yearly interest is made available in February of each year. For this reason, the Center’s fiscal year is from February to January. Any unused interest accrues to the next fiscal year.

Section B. Goals and Objectives

1. Please enumerate the initial goals and objectives and describe the current goals and objectives if they have changed. Units will indicate how their goals are consistent with the strategic plans of the University and their college, citing the relevant documents (the college and University strategic plans) as necessary.

There were four initial goals and objectives set forth by the Center:

i. The offering of Modern Greek Language courses with the objectives of broadening the scope of language offerings on campus and of providing a base of study for future courses in Greek studies as well as opportunities for Study Abroad.

ii. The establishment of a lecture series with the objective of bringing noted scholars to the GSU campus in order to present important topics related to Modern Greek studies.

iii. The establishment of cultural programming series with the objectives of bringing noted performers, composers and artists to the GSU campus, presenting important modern Greek art to the GSU campus and fostering collaborations between GSU faculty and students with their counterparts in Greece.

iv. The establishment of a formal student/faculty exchange program between Georgia State University and an institution in Greece with the objective of bringing students from Greece to the GSU campus for study over the course of a semester or academic year as well as providing opportunities for GSU students and faculty to study and teach in Greece over the course of a semester or academic year.

In addition to these goals, three additional goals and objectives have been set forth by the Center:

i. The offering of higher-level Modern Greek language courses with the objective of better preparing students in language proficiency before embarking on exchange programs in Greece.
ii. The establishment of a B.I.S. degree in Modern Greek Studies with the objective of offering a course of study that would focus on the Arts within the field of Modern Greek Studies.

iii. The securing of additional funding with the objective of adding to the principal in the Georgia State University Foundation designated for Hellenic Studies.

2. What are the major institutional, administrative, and/or financial resources that facilitate achieving the center's goals and objectives?

For over five years of its history, the Center was impaired by not having a designated chair or an ongoing source of funding. The establishment of the formal chair in 2005 has provided the major institutional, administrative and financial resources to begin realizing the goals and objectives of the Center.

3. What are the major institutional, administrative, and/or financial constraints that interfere with achieving the center's goals and objectives?

There are still constraints that interfere with achieving the Center’s goals and objectives. Institutionally, the Center needs to be formally housed within a department and thus more able to focus on areas of distinction. The Center is currently only partially oriented toward an academic focus. As the Director is a member of the School of Music, the focus of academic activity has been oriented towards the arts. While this may be the natural consequence of the Director’s appointment, this situation has inadvertently created a dynamic opportunity for distinction within the field of Modern Greek Studies. In discussions with other chairs of Modern Greek programs in the United States, notably Dr. Vassilis Lambropoulos (University of Michigan) and Dr. Gregory Jusdanis (Ohio State University), it has been made clear that the GSU Center for Hellenic Studies is unique in its attention towards the Arts. No other Modern Greek Studies program is oriented toward this broad field of study. Both Dr. Lambropoulos and Dr. Jusdanis have noted the distinctiveness of this nascent work within the GSU Center. The constraint of not formally housing the Center within the School of Music and formally charging its academic mission towards Modern Greek music, art, theatre, dance and literature hinders the Center from assuming a truly distinctive and significant status within the field of Modern Greek studies in the United States.

A second constraint interfering with the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Center concerns its administration. Currently, the Director serves as an administrator as time permits within his duties in the School of Music. Prior to his appointment in 2004, the Director taught 3 classes, conducted an ensemble, served as Coordinator of his area within the School (composition) and taught up to 10 students individually per week (10 contact hours per week) in addition to other service requirements each fall and spring semester. After his appointment as Director, he was relieved of only one course while retaining all other responsibilities each fall and spring semester. Ideally, the Director should be relieved of an additional course within the School of Music in order to better focus on the activities of the Center. It is unlikely that funding will permit a dedicated Director for the Center in the near future, thus an additional course reduction will remove an administrative constraint currently interfering with the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Center.
A third constraint is in the area of funding. As noted above, the current interest generated by the principal in the Georgia State University Foundation account designated for Hellenic Studies is approximately $20,000.00 - $25,000.00 a year depending upon the market. After compensation for faculty (the Director and the instructor of the Modern Greek language course), there is only a modest amount of funding to be used for programming. Fund raising is an important ongoing concern for the Director.

4. What is your assessment of your achievement of your goals?

To date, the Center has been successful in achieving all of its initial goals. Modern Greek language courses are currently being taught on a regular basis, an ongoing lecture series has been established as well as significant cultural programming. In 2008, the Center also realized its goal of establishing a faculty/student exchange program with Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. In the fall of 2010, GSU sent its first undergraduate student to study abroad at Aristotle University and we will welcome our first graduate student from Thessaloniki to the GSU campus in the spring of 2011. The Center is proud of these achievements despite the constraints noted above in administrative time and financial resources.

5. What steps can be taken to increase the research/scholarly productivity of the center faculty (e.g. evaluation studies, scholarship of teaching)?

Currently, the Center faculty consists of the director and an instructor of Modern Greek language (both of whom are compensated for their service). Members of the advisory board serve on a voluntary basis. Until such time as a fully operational B.I.S. degree in Modern Greek studies is implemented, research/scholarly productivity of the Center will be limited. There are some near term steps that can be taken, however, without waiting for a B.I.S. degree to increase scholarly productivity. First, the Center must do more to help fund projects by GSU faculty members engaged in research related to the field of Modern Greek studies. Such initiatives have already been undertaken by the Center. Faculty members from the School of Music and the Department of Anthropology have received some support for travel to Greece for research related to Greek studies. Such support has been modest (consisting mostly of travel supplements). Should resources increase, more support for pre-existing research as well as new research initiatives should be forthcoming. Second, in the area of cultural programming, more can be done to support the research agenda of performance/artistic faculty through presentations of work related to Greek studies. Such programming is helpful as it is a very visible demonstration of the Center’s work and overall research agenda to a greater population. Such awareness within the University community, the local Greek community and the greater Atlanta area, will only help in fund raising initiatives for the Center in the future.
Section C. Service/Education Efforts

1. Describe the major areas/topics of the center. How has the center promoted the mission of the University?

The major areas/topics of the Center revolve significantly around the Arts. Specifically, the Center has focused on Music, Art and Literature. The Center is also involved in the area of Anthropology. The Center seeks to explore the richness of Hellenic creativity in the Arts dating from the glory of the Byzantine Empire up to the Modern age. Situated within the city of Atlanta, itself a vibrant center for the arts in the Southeast, the Center is uniquely qualified as a unit within an urban institution to promote learning for diverse groups of students in preparation for lifelong learning in a global society.

2. What are the major opportunities/impediments for doing service and/or education in the center?

One of the major opportunities for doing service and education is the Center’s location in Atlanta. As an international city boasting the world’s busiest airport, Atlanta is an ideal base from which to operate. Trips to Greece or within the United States are relatively easy and often involve non-stop flights. This creates an opportunity for collaborations with artists and scholars not only from Greece but also throughout the United States. The Center also benefits from its location in Atlanta by enjoying close ties with the Consulate of Greece also located in the city. The Center and the Consulate have already collaborated on several projects with plans to extend collaborations in the future. In turn, the Consulate gives positive reports back to the Greek Government concerning the Center’s activities. A second opportunity is a very supportive Administration within the College and University. It is safe to say that without the vision and support of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in the early years of its existence, the Center would not have survived. Continued support from the College as well as a global view from the upper administration of the University is a tremendous opportunity for growth. A third opportunity for doing service and education can be found in the faculty. Aside from the Director, the Center benefits from the presence of eminent scholars and artists of Greek background with close ties to Greece.

Although blessed with a wonderful faculty, one of the greatest impediments for doing service and education is lack of formal roles for faculty (aside from the Director and language instructor) that include compensation. Given the very busy schedules of the members of the advisory board, it is extremely difficult to meet on a regular basis and to assign extra service duties. Without a more formal structure, faculty members (except for the director and language instructor) remain in an advisory capacity only.

3. What percentage of the center's funding has been paid out of Fund Code 10? List amounts for the last five years.

Over the past four consecutive years, Fund Code 10 funding has been used to compensate the instructor of Modern Greek language. This funding represents approximately 11% of the yearly funds available. Modern was not offered during the 2005-2006 academic year. It has been offered every
academic year since that time. The amounts paid per semester are listed below:

- Fall 2005 $0
- Spring 2006 $0
- Fall 2006 $2700
- Spring 2007 $2700
- Fall 2007 $2700
- Spring 2008 $2700
- Fall 2008 $2700
- Spring 2009 $2700
- Fall 2009 $2700
- Spring 2010 $2700
- Fall 2010 $2700

4. Attach a list of all activities (e.g. workshops/research programs/conferences/seminars/symposia/etc.) of the center.

See Attached Appendix 1

5. Attach separate bibliographies of refereed and nonrefereed publications, if any, which have resulted from research activities of the center. List publications from the last three years only.

N/A

6. Attach a list of grants submitted in the last three academic years and list all sources of funding. For funded grants, give title, funding source, amount, type of grant (research or instruction), GSU project number, and period funded. Specify the amount of funds received from each category (research, service or instruction) for each of the last three years.

See Attached Appendix 2

Section D. Center Personnel

List all personnel funded through the center for the prior fiscal year. Faculty who receive course releases or full or partial summer pay should be counted as center members.

See Attached Appendix 3