

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW – SITE VISIT OCTOBER 2009

Action Plan: The Goals and Objectives of the History Department in Response to the APR Report.

The History Department welcomed the report of the Academic Performance Review Team in 2010 and since has actively sought to achieve the objectives that its members set forth. The APR review reinforced our commitment to maintain the highest levels of performance in both undergraduate and graduate instruction. This necessitated close collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences to achieve restoration of faculty numbers and direct involvement of the faculty in maintaining and advancing the fields of study, institutes, centers, and publications that give the Department a unique character. We have also cooperated with the College, the Provost, and the Director of UNM West to establish a viable and excellent program for the study of history on that campus.

The Department responded positively to the recommendations of the APR Team and identified basic achievable recommendations in Sections VI and VII of the Report. The response and plans undertaken by the Department to meet objectives of these sections is detailed as follows.

Strategy for development. (Section VI)

The APR report was clear in advocating specific steps that the Department had to take in conjunction with the College to restore faculty positions that were lost in recent years. In addition, the APR Team made positive recommendations with regard to Lecturer and Post-Doctoral positions within the Department.

1. With the active cooperation of the Dean of the College and the Provost, the Department will undertake a search for an historian of Science, Technology and the Environment this year. As part of this effort, the Department will collaborate with Jeff MacNutt in fundraising to establish partial funding for a chair in the History of Science, Technology, and Environment. The APR Team emphasized that such a chair would attract graduate students, support University public outreach goals, and highlight the unique place of the state in the history of science and technology. It is our hope to involve Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories, and private industry in this campaign. Our objective is to fill this position in time for the 2012-2013 school year.

With the approval of the Dean of the College and the Provost, the Department is also undertaking a search for a historian of Medicine, a position that was also recommended by the APR team. This position will establish ties to the UNM Medical School and will help to serve the BA-MD program.

2. a. The Department successfully completed a search to fill the position in Medieval History. In February 2011, Professor Michael Ryan accepted the offer of the Department and joined the faculty in August, 2011.
2. b. The Department will submit a proposal to hire an Ancient Historian in 2013.
2. c. The Department plans to initiate an appeal to hire a historian of US Diplomatic History and a historian of China and Japan.
3. The recommended diversity initiatives are underway and the Department continues to wish join in a search with Africana Studies for a historian of Afro-American History. We await an opportunity to participate in a similar search with Native American Studies and regard this position as essential to the mission of the Department, of Native American Studies, and of the University.
4. The Department will join with the Dean and the Provost in finding a way to revise current practices so that faculty retirements in key areas do not result in long delays in hiring replacements for those positions. The APR Team emphasized that this will become a crucial part of the five year plan that the College and

Department should develop to respond to the number of retirements that will occur in the near future and efforts are underway to solve the problem.

5. The goal of developing a program to recruit postdoctoral fellows and lecturers has begun with the addition of Caleb Richardson to the faculty as a Lecturer. Funding for the position came from a spousal hire agreement with the School of Medicine. The Department is also engaged in a spousal hire at the Lecturer level to offer courses on the Main Campus and at the UNM West Campus. Donna Ray has joined the Department as a Lecturer and offers classes for History, Religious Studies, and the UNM West program. The Department will also explore every possible source of funding to establish postdoctoral fellows to meet obvious teaching needs, to support the centers and research institutes with which the Department cooperates, and to encourage every possibility for innovation and diversity. Such positions could also enhance the program of the UNM West campus.

Further development efforts. (Section VII)

The APR Team had definite opinions concerning the development of the Department's fundraising efforts to sustain the variety of activities it has outside of research and teaching. The Team also made recommendations concerning curriculum development.

1. Fundraising efforts continue with individual members of the department joining with Jeff MacNutt to secure permanent private support for the Center for the Southwest, the *New Mexico Historical Review*, the Tim Moy Memorial Teaching Fellowship, and the Friends of the Institute for Medieval Studies. The Department wishes to become more directly engaged in fundraising opportunities that will benefit programs that, as the Team said, reflect the unique location, history, and contributions of New Mexico.
2. The effort led by Professor Sam Truett to have the University join the Newberry Library Consortium has been successful and students are already taking advantage of research opportunities in the extraordinary collections of the D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies. Following the lead of Jeff MacNutt who has already secured a major donation to assist the relationship with the Consortium, the Department will also search for additional sponsors from its alumni list.
3. The Department is developing an expanded electronic list of graduates to enlarge the number of possible donors who might offer their support our programs. We will maintain contact with them through a yearly newsletter.

Latin American Studies.

1. The Department successfully petitioned for inclusion of the Latin American survey course (History 181-182) in the Core Curriculum. The structure of the Core is being re-evaluated this year and the Department is pleased to see the Latin American history courses included in the revised version. The APR Team made a strong case for inclusion and their remarks were vital for our success.