

**CONCLUDING ACTION MEMORANDUM
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Fall 2011

Introduction

The San Francisco State University Department of International Relations offers a bachelor of arts, a minor, and a master of arts degree. Recently, as a part of the SF State campus reorganization, the department was moved from the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences to the College of Liberal and Creative Arts. The completion of this review was delayed for a year and a half while the university underwent college reorganization.

As noted by the external consultants, the faculty are clearly student centered, offering quality in graduate teaching to mid-career students who wish to “re-imagine their work lives.” At the same time, the faculty was also praised for their research productivity and the placement of their work in significant journals. To be commended for both teaching and research signifies a department that is fulfilling the unique vision of the CSU system.

For this review, the department undertook a self-study of its programs in spring 2008. The self-study was followed by an external review by two consultants: Professor Constance Anthony of Seattle University and Professor Dipak Gupta from San Diego State University. The external review was, in turn, followed by an internal review from the Academic Program Review Committee (APRC) of the Academic Senate, which examined all documentation from the department and the external review. This Concluding Action Memorandum from the Provost finalizes the sixth cycle program review for the Department of International Relations.

Commendations

The Department is commended for:

- Extensive international and community service work
- The accomplishments of its alumni
- Faculty commitment to teaching and student learning
- The research productivity of the faculty
- The commitment to raising academic standards for applicants

Action Plan

Based on the outcome of the academic program review and on the discussions resulting from this review, the Department of International Relations will take the following actions.

Curriculum

- The department responded at great length to the APRC suggestion that it share curriculum with the Department of Political Science. It is clear that considerable collaboration exists. The department should engage in serious discussions with the Provost, the dean, and the Department of Political Science regarding collaboration on a number of fronts and a possible merger of the two departments.
- We are pleased that the department has developed a rubric for evaluating theses. Using the rubric, the department should include an analysis of thesis work in its next assessment report, which is due June 30, 2012.
- We are also pleased that the department has been able to develop a plan and process for continuing the internship. Analysis of the effectiveness should also be included in the June 30, 2012 assessment report.

Faculty

- We acknowledge and appreciate the work that the department has done to upgrade its website. Faculty should continue to maintain the updated website.
- The department should work with Graduate Studies to obtain results from the graduate exit survey, which is currently under development. Data from the survey should be incorporated into the department's program assessment reports.


Provost's Statement

The following statement from Provost Sue Rosser is intended to provide a context for addressing resource-related issues in all Concluding Action Memoranda: "Student demand is growing in many areas of the curriculum. Furthermore, given the current fiscal setting, we do not expect that overall funding for programs will increase at all beyond current levels. In fact, in the current financial environment, we expect that funding will likely be further diminished. Therefore, all academic units are being asked

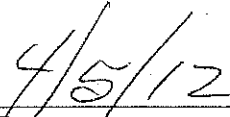
to examine the depth and breadth of offerings in their programs and to assess the extent to which they can be sustained. Accordingly, as with all academic units in the University, the College of Liberal and Creative Arts and the Department of International Relations must look at their ability to continue to offer the full array of current programs over the next several years.”

Authorization

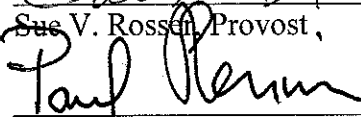
We hereby approve this Memorandum of Understanding:



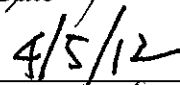
Sue V. Rossin, Provost,



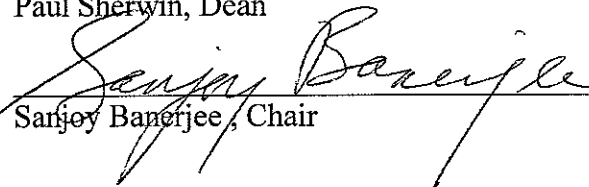
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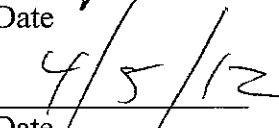
Paul Sherwin, Dean



Date



Sanjoy Banerjee, Chair



Date