



To: Jane DeWitt, Interim Associate Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education
and Academic Planning

From: Andrew Harris, Dean of the College of Liberal & Creative Arts

Date: February 1, 2018

Re: American Studies Seventh Cycle Dean's Response

The external Seventh Cycle reviewers conclude that the American Studies Program has the opportunity to grow its base in order to create a stronger impact at the university and within the CSU. Their report addresses issues and concerns raised in the self-study, and adds others not so included, with the following recommendations:

1. Undertake structural revision, including creating an advisory board
2. Create a formal governing body for the program on campus
3. Formalize relationships across campus with like-minded programs such as Women and Gender Studies
4. Reach out to both the CSU and non-academic communities in the greater Bay area
5. Create program visibility and community and recruit students to the major through an introductory "first experience" general education courses, and an annual lecture series
6. Update the website with a new mission statement, career options and other updated content to create a better virtual site that students can explore on their own
7. Find a physical "home" where students can congregate
8. Dedicate a physical space or office for faculty teaching in the program
9. Rewrite the curriculum to create "tracks" to improve focus and help advising
10. Hire additional full-time lecturers for new classes

Dean's Recommendation:

We would like to commend American Studies for a well-written Self Study which outlines its continued good work within a context of limited resources and relative lack of structure. As the reviewers make clear, the program exist primarily on the good will and dedication of faculty teaching in it, and enjoys quiet success that could grow significantly given the existing interdisciplinary strengths across the college and university. The department response to the report acknowledges its support and notes that several suggestions have already been implemented.

I recommend the program prioritize curriculum development and structural build-out among the recommendations, given that new energy will largely come from an expanded and well-guided student cohort. I agree that greater exposure to American Studies through general education courses is likely to be successful, and would be willing to reallocate modest FTES targets to support growth in this area under the new budget model. If successful, this will lead to a larger conversation about whether AMST can grow only at the expense of other programs both in and

out of the college. Given the limited faculty dedicated to the program, I support additionally compensated faculty time towards these ends, though it is not clear that release time is the only way to accomplish this—stipends for exceptional work beyond normal course preparation would be a useful investment. The annual lecture series to generate interest in the major and increase program visibility is a possible area of growth, and could be supported in the short term through collaborations with other departments. It could also be supported through annual fundraising at the school level, and through annual school expenditure. Space will be harder to come by, given the limited options within HUM until the new LCA building opens up some space across the college.