



June 14, 2021

Dr. Peggy Hauselt, Chair
Dr. Jose´ Diaz-Garayua
Dr. Alison McNally
Dr. Augustine Avwunudiogba
Dr. Jennifer Helzer
Department of Anthropology, Geography and Ethnic Studies

RE: Geography Program – Academic Program Review

Dear Drs. Hauselt, Diaz-Garayua, McNally, Avwunudiogba, and Helzer,

Thank you for joining me to discuss the Academic Program Review for the Geography program. It was a pleasure to read your thoughtful and comprehensive self-study and to discuss the future of the Geography program with you via zoom. I especially appreciated the thoughtful, substantive conversation about your program and the Center for Applied Spatial Analysis (CASA).

I commend you for your successful self-study, the revised Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) you submitted after our meeting, and your growth orientation for the program. Your commitment to the education and success of students is readily apparent. Given that your program has 5 tenure track faculty, I acknowledge the need for another position, especially to replace a retirement in the near future. As I understood your comments, at this time you see that replacement position having a focus on applied human geography with the ability to teach courses on migration, human response to environmental degradation/climate change and also to contribute to the GIS courses and the center. I agree with you that students may be attracted to the new ENVR prefix and that certainly may increase enrollment in your courses.

I think we were all excited to discuss the new possibilities for expanding your course offerings at the Stockton Campus (in support of the Social Studies degree) as well. It would be wonderful to create a Geography Lab at the Stockton Campus and hire a lab tech as part of the core GIS component that would also dovetail nicely with the new research center which has a participatory action research orientation around issues of race, equity and social justice. This expansion into Stockton may necessitate another FT Lecturer as enrollment grows.

We also talked about CASA and our pleasure that the center is up and running. The global pandemic very likely impacted the number of contracts you received this past year. Therefore, Academic Affairs wants to contribute \$75,000 to support faculty and student research happening in collaboration with your center. These funds do not need to be spent within a specific time line. It is my hope that these resources help support the center as you apply for grants and contracts consistent with your vision of the center.

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The result of this Academic Program Review is that your program is approved for continuance with unqualified support. I encourage you to continue to assess and review student competencies, and appreciate your commitment to growing the program. You have a highly functional, healthy academic program and our region's needs students with the knowledge and skills you develop in your program.

Again, I extend my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you and discuss your self-study and implementation plan. While my time at Stan State is ending, I hope to hear from you in the future as I am very interested in where you take the program and the center well into the future.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Greer

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Cc: Dr. James Tuedio, Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Dr. Stuart Wooley, Interim AVP, Academic Affairs
Erin Littlepage, Student Success and Community Partners Specialist

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