

Approved

**2003-04 Annual Report of the Subcommittee on the
Breadth Requirement in American Cultures**

In fulfilling its charge as established by resolution of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, the Committee on Educational Policy Subcommittee on the Breadth Requirement in American Cultures (AM CULT) carried out the following activities. The chair of AM CULT during 2003-04 was Professor Jeffrey Romm.

I. Issues and Actions

- The subcommittee reviewed the Report of the Committee to Review the Center for the Teaching and Study of American Cultures (5/29/2003).
- The subcommittee reviewed the Draft Report of the Faculty Roundtable on the Future of American Cultures (8/26/2003).
- The subcommittee revised its Guidelines for Approval of American Cultures Courses. The revised guidelines offer an articulation of the criteria used to evaluate American cultures courses that is more capacious and flexible than previous versions in accordance with the subcommittee's willingness to entertain more diverse approaches to the teaching of American cultures. The revised guidelines are intended to be more succinct, easily accessible, and encouraging to instructors of all disciplines considering offering American cultures courses.
 - ▶ Chair Romm, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Christina Maslach, and Center for the Teaching and Study of American Cultures Assistant Director Ronald Choy met with the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) to discuss the revised guidelines, which CEP endorsed (2/25/04 meeting).
 - ▶ A copy of the revised guidelines was sent to all active members of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate (3/19/2004).
- The subcommittee met with faculty interested in the study of the cultures and institutions of science and technology as these intersect with race and ethnicity as well as improved integration of American cultures courses in the sciences (3/12/2004 meeting).
 - ▶ The discussion led to a clearer understanding of the obstacles facing disciplines in offering American cultures courses, the numerous opportunities for such course in many uninvolved disciplines, and the vast interest in this area of inquiry. The meeting resulted in the development of at least one new American cultures course in the department of Earth and Planetary Science.

- The subcommittee regularly invited Vice Provost Maslach to meetings to discuss efforts to maintain sustaining levels of funding for the American Cultures program amidst severe budget cuts and the direction of the Center for the Teaching and Study of American Cultures. The subcommittee endorsed the development of an advisory council for the Center composed of strong supporters of the American Cultures program interested in advocating on its behalf.
 - ▶ The subcommittee met with historical supporters of the American Cultures program to discuss, and seek their involvement in, an advisory council for the Center (5/17/2004 meeting).
- The subcommittee reviewed 99 cases during the 2003-04 academic year as follows:

	Total	Approved	Denied	Pended
UC Berkeley Courses Proposals	53	53	0	0
Other College Course Proposals	17	17	0	0
Student Petitions	29	21 by AC 8 by COCI*	0	0

*Sent directly to COCI as no course approval request was involved.

- The subcommittee and the staff of the Center for the Teaching and Study of American Cultures work together to offer extensive advice and assistance to instructors planning to submit courses to meet the American Cultures Breadth Requirement. The Center offers seminars and course development grants. The Center also makes available its archive of every American cultures course proposal, extensive collection of readers for many American cultures courses, and small, specialized library. The Center's staff and subcommittee members work with instructors to assemble finished proposals, explaining the required criteria all American cultures courses must meet and the subcommittee's guidelines and approval procedures, referring them to other faculty members who teach courses that deal with related issues, offering the assistance of the American Cultures librarian to find course material, explaining pedagogical strategies that other instructors have found to be successful, and commenting on draft proposals. As a result of this extensive preparatory work, the subcommittee usually receives carefully crafted proposals that address all the issues the subcommittee requires to make a positive decision.

II. Future Action Items

- The subcommittee will continue to work with Vice Provost Maslach toward the formation of an advisory council for the Center for the Teaching and Study of American Cultures.
- The subcommittee will continue to work toward gaining approval for the new course evaluation/ approval guidelines.