MEMO

To: Clifford Fedler, Associate Dean, Graduate School

From: Laura J. Beard, Chair, CMLL

Date: November 28, 2011

Subject: Post Graduate Program Review – CMLL

In Spring 2010, CMLL underwent Graduate Program Review. In the areas of Program Overview and Vision, Faculty Productivity, Quality and Quantity of Graduate Students and Graduates, and Curriculum and Programs of Study, CMLL received ratings of “good to excellent.” In the area of Facilities and Resources, CMLL received a rating of “poor.” Several recommendations were made. This report addresses changes in the Department and graduate programs since the time of the graduate program review report.

Program Overview and Vision

- One major change has been at the department chair level. The previous chair stepped down at the end of spring 2010 (the change was announced during the time of this graduate program review), and Dr. Laura Beard was appointed first as Interim Chair (starting June 2010), then as Chair of CMLL. Having a chair active in the doctoral program of the department has helped provide leadership and stability to the graduate programs in the department. Also starting in June 2010, a new Associate Chair was named for CMLL. Dr. Erin Collopy, Associate Professor of Russian, is a member of the Graduate Faculty, replacing Dr. Lorum Stratton, the former Associate Chair, who is not a member of the Graduate Faculty.
- The Spanish doctoral program received the highest ranking among the doctoral programs in the College of Arts & Sciences in the 2009 Academic Analytics rankings (which we received after the 2010 Graduate Program Review). Such recognition shows that we are doing well in meeting the goals set out in our vision and mission statements of being a top ranked graduate program.
- Five graduate faculty members (George Cole, Idola Elola, Don Lavigne, Carmen Pereira and Victoria Surluga) received tenure and promotion in the last year. Another graduate faculty member, Dr. Chris Witmore, was promoted to Associate Professor of Classics. Such changes strengthen the graduate programs in Spanish and Classics.
- In Fall 2010, two strong new hires joined CMLL. Dr. Carole Edwards, Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies, has brought great energy, enthusiasm, teaching and research strengths to the French division. Dr. Anita McChesney, Assistant Professor of German, has had
similar impact on the German division. Both are contributing to important curricular revisions in their divisions.

- CMLL was awarded the Texas Tech Globalization Award “For their international research programs, exceptional support of the Texas Tech Center in Seville, and faculty-led programs abroad” – awarded November 1, 2011

Faculty Productivity

- This section of the report notes that the greater part of the faculty maintains graduate faculty status with regular publications of scholarship articles and paper presentations at academic conferences and that a group of prolific researchers stand out for publishing recent books, receiving grants and fellowships, and bringing editorial offices of recognized journals to TTU. This pattern holds true. Recent fellowships include:
  - Dr. Don Lavigne Associate Professor of Classics, the Durham University International Junior Fellowship, in the United Kingdom
  - Dr. Sara Guengerich, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latin American and Iberian Studies, a Newberry Library Short-Term Fellowship, Summer 2011, as well as a selection for the TTU Institute for Inclusive Excellence

- Under the new Chair, there has been increased attention to encouraging faculty productivity in a variety of ways.
  - Graduate faculty members now have funding to present research papers at conferences. These travel grants are small ($800 each in 2010-2011; $800 for a national conference $1,000 for an international conference in 2011-2012), but it is the first time in some years that CMLL graduate faculty members have had any travel funding.
  - The Chair regularly sends announcements about conferences, journals, grant opportunities, fellowships, and other announcements from the OVPR to the faculty members, with encouragement to apply for external funding, to present at conferences, to submit to journals, etc. Such announcements create a culture of research expectations.
  - The Chair re-instated the CMLL lecture series in 2009 (the year before she became Chair) in order to provide a venue for faculty members to present their research in progress and to create scholarly conversations in the department. Also in 2009, she started an occasional CMLL research workshop series, with workshops for graduate students and faculty on topics like applying for grants, submitting to a journal, etc.
  - The Chair has addressed issues of research productivity, comparing research metrics of CMLL to other departments in the College of Arts & Sciences, at CMLL faculty meetings.
  - Issues of research productivity are also addressed in the chair’s response to faculty annual reports.
  - Significant accomplishments by faculty members—research awards, publications, fellowships, etc.—are announced by the chair to the department via e-mail and at faculty meetings, again to create a culture that values faculty productivity.
• The critical need for additional faculty members in Spanish noted in the Graduate Program Review has not been addressed. In fact, there are fewer faculty members in Spanish now than when the report was written. One part-time faculty member in Spanish is no longer in CMLL, having moved to a full-time position in English. There are only 12 graduate faculty members in Spanish at the present time.

• Applied Linguistics lost its most productive faculty member at the end of Spring 2011, leaving that area with two tenured full-time graduate faculty members, along with three others who have split positions with other language/culture areas. The Applied Linguistics faculty members are working hard to maintain the strong M.A. in Applied Linguistics. At present, there is no plan to move forward with a PhD in Applied Linguistics.

• Classics also has lost two graduate faculty members since the Graduate Program Review with one more planning to leave at the end of the Spring 2012 semester. There is a search for one new hire (for a Roman archeologist), but that will still leave Classics down two positions from where they were during the time of the report, when they were already considered understaffed. This division will be impacted further by the fact that one graduate faculty member, Dr. Don Lavigne, has received a prestigious fellowship in the U.K. and will be away from TTU for two years.

Quality and Quantity of Graduate Students and Graduates

The graduate programs in CMLL were ranked “good to excellent” with the report noting that the graduate students appearing to be “highly motivated and capable.” Some important items to note since the last report:

• The Spanish doctoral program received the highest ranking among the doctoral programs in the College of Arts & Sciences in the 2009 Academic Analytics rankings (which we received after the 2010 Graduate Program Review). Such recognition shows that we are doing well in meeting our vision and mission statements of being a top ranked graduate program.

• For two years running, CMLL has been successful in applying for “Growing the Graduate Program” funds from the Graduate School.
  • For 2010-2011, the Interim Chair applied for two amounts, one to fund a graduate student to begin work on re-vamping the graduate program websites. A graduate student assistant was hired to work on the Spanish graduate program website. The other amount was for graduate recruiting in Spanish and Classics. Both programs were able to invite top prospective graduate students to campus as part of their recruiting efforts.
  • For 2011-2012, the Chair secured $10,000 for a CMLL graduate recruiting weekend, which will be held February 2-4, 2012. $36,000 in Growing the Graduate Program funds were secured which allowed CMLL to offer 12 $3,000 scholarships to incoming graduate students for the 2011-2012 academic year. Six scholarships went to Spanish, with the reset divided among the remaining programs. These scholarships are crucial to our efforts to recruit and retain students in our graduate programs.
Graduate Directors and recruiters have been consistent in recommending CMLL students for TTU scholarships. The current chair, with the agreement of the graduate faculty, has begun to use CMLL scholarships more effectively as well to recruit and retain our strongest graduate student candidates.

Graduate students continue to present their papers at conferences both locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Hsiao-Yun Liao, M.A. student in Applied Linguistics in CMLL and Chinese Instructor, and Tim Buckner and Rene Ibarra, doctoral students in Spanish in CMLL, were recipients of the Helen DeVitt Jones Excellence in Graduate Part-Time Teaching Award for 2010-11.

At the 2011 Arts & Humanities Graduate Research Conference, sponsored by Texas Tech’s Graduate School, several CMLL students won scholarship awards. Winners included:

- Keith Anthis Spanish
  “Gonzalo Torrente Ballester and the New Historical Novel in Late Twentieth-Century Spain”
- Abraham Mata Spanish
  “Race, Gender, and Power: Indigenous Slavery in Colonial Spanish America”
- Ashley Maloney Classics
  “Gladiatorial advertisements in Pompeii as propaganda”
- Megan Smith Applied Linguistics
  “Is Head-Directionality Dead? Evidence from L2 Japanese”
- Michael Martinez Jr Spanish
  “Rhythmic Reflections of imperialism: Language and Narrative Structure in Bartolome de Las Casas’ ‘Brevisima relacion de la destruccion de las Indias’”
- Rebecca Hallford Romance Languages
  “Notions of Heaven and Hell in "Huis Clos" by Jean Paul Sartre”

Curriculum and Programs of Study

The Graduate Program Review found the curriculum to be “appropriate, thoughtful, mainstream, and open to regular assessment and revision.” Indeed, most of the different graduate areas of CMLL have been undergoing appropriate and thoughtful assessment and revision of their curriculum.

- Spanish has established a regular rotation of courses for the M.A. program which will greatly aid the M.A. students in their program of study, with additional courses available for the PhD students. The Spanish & Portuguese graduate faculty has also created a better system for the annual review of graduate students, in line with Graduate School requirements, so that the graduate students are receiving more advising and mentoring from the graduate faculty throughout their careers. A new graduate advisor in Spanish should also help in this regard.
- French has revised their graduate curriculum, proposing new courses through ASCAP and deleting others.
- German has also chosen to revise their graduate offerings in literature, proposing new courses to ASCAP to replace some of the current offerings.
Classics has instituted new study abroad programs that include significant hands-on archaeological experience for their M.A. students in the countries and cultures of study. These research experiences strengthen the Classics M.A. experience.

CMLL has worked hard over the past year and a half to offer a strong curriculum within the constraints of its budget and faculty resources.

In part in response to rumblings from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, with their concerns about closing out any programs that may be on the low-degree productivity list, CMLL is currently discussing plans to combine the M.A. degrees under an umbrella degree. There now exists a joint M.A. in Romance Languages (which offers tracks in Spanish and French). A new combined degree, if CMLL decides to pursue this option, would have tracks in Spanish, French, German, Classics and Applied Linguistics. Students in the M.A. would take some shared courses.

Facilities and Resources

The Graduate Program Review gave CMLL a rating of “poor” in this category. The shortage of classrooms was noted, the need to update and maintain the language lab, the need for additional office space, and the inadequate technology support were all discussed in this section.

No new resources or facilities have been allocated to CMLL since the Graduate Program Review. It was once thought that CMLL would be able to move into the old B.A. building after it was renovated, but that is no longer the case. CMLL will recover some office space when the Intensive English Program (IEP) run by CMLL ends its operation at the end of spring 2012 (Texas Tech has signed a contract to run a new IEP through an outside provider starting in June 2012).

In Fall 2011, the CMLL chair made a presentation to FAC to obtain funding to construct a Digital Humanities (DH) Lab in the basement of the building. This new laboratory, presently under construction and expected to be ready for use in January 2012, should offer new space and opportunities for research and teaching for graduate students and graduate faculty in CMLL as well as provide opportunities for interdisciplinary interaction across the College of Arts & Sciences. CMLL expects to apply for external research funding in this area in future. Being able to prepare our graduate students in the area of Digital Humanities is an important part of our efforts to continue to recruit and retain top candidates.

Recommendations:

The Graduate Program Review various recommendations. I list them here and comment on the current status of these recommendations.

- Expand archaeology track in Classics – Classics has been working on this recommendation through the study abroad programs, courses at TTU, and a search for a new hire in Roman archaeology. Dr. Witmore has been a vibrant and vital presence in the Classics M.A. program.
- Alleviate the undergraduate bottleneck in Spanish instruction and better service TTU’s growing Hispanic population by allocating more resources to Spanish to hire new faculty and pay new graduate students—TTU has not yet followed this recommendation. This need remains dire.
- Enhance Tier 1 prospects by pursuing PhD in Second-Language Studies in Applied Linguistics—The faculty member brought to TTU to spearhead this project is no longer in the department and was no longer pursuing the project in his last year in the department.
- Add more funded MAs in Classics and more GPTIs in Spanish—no funds have been added to the CMLL budget to allow for this recommendation to be put into practice
- Add to the faculty
  - A Roman archaeologist—a search is underway
  - A faculty line in heritage Spanish—no funds have been added to authorize this search
  - A faculty line in Portuguese—no funds have been added to authorize this search
  - A specialist in Spanish linguistics—no funds have been added to authorize this search
  - A specialist in Russian literature or a Russian linguist—no funds have been added to authorize this search

Add to the staff a Graduate Studies office with a dedicated clerical and records person—has not been possible yet.

Specific Recommendations from External Review on Spanish PhD Program

The external reviewer found that the PhD program performs very well, noting that “for the most part, the faculty publication records are outstanding, demonstrating a consistent dedication to scholarship.” The external reviewer found the impressive performance of the Spanish doctoral program particularly notable in consideration of the serious resource limitations—a shortage of faculty positions, the surprising absence of faculty travel support, an insufficient number of graduate student instructors, anomalous and contentious lower-level language coordination, overburdened support staff, and a deficient webpage.

The external reviewer notes that the bottom-heavy Spanish department model is ultimately untenable. This situation has not been resolved. CMLL still needs additional faculty lines in Spanish and additional funding for GPTIs to help address this grave problem.

The external reviewer suggested broadening the curriculum to incorporate courses on other media, such as film and visual art. Curricular reform in the Spanish graduate program has been a subject of attention in the last two years. There are some graduate faculty members who have resisted any changes, but the majority of the members do agree on additions and revisions to the curriculum to meet the needs of our students and the changes in the discipline.

The external reviewer also suggested making changes to the coordination of lower level Spanish, which had been under what was politely referred to as an “anomalous” arrangement under the previous chair. That situation ended with the previous chair. The lower level Spanish is now coordinated by a Spanish
graduate faculty member, a native speaker of Spanish, with subject matter expertise in second language studies and acquisition of language. CMLL has a search on-going for a full-time coordinator for that position. Many changes are being made in the first and second year program and the graduate students teaching in that program are much happier than they were a few years previously.

A new IT hire has also begun to address many website issues in the department.

Unfunded recommendations from the external reviewer include:

- 2 or 3 new faculty lines in Spanish
- a budget dedicated to faculty travel support
- additional funded graduate student positions to alleviate the pressure on lower level language demands
- fund a new staff position to help with graduate student application process