

Summary of Internal and External Review Team Reports  
Department of History  
Fall 2006

The following summarizes the findings of the internal and external review teams that conducted reviews during the Fall semester of 2006.

The Department of History was acknowledged as among the best in the College of Liberal Arts. The productive faculty is involved in teaching a large undergraduate program that has nearly half its students also enrolled in College of Education and Human Services courses. The Department's valuable graduate program's students are committed to scholarly work in preparing to work in a variety of fields. A number of younger faculty are involved in research areas new for the discipline which requires adjustments in the curriculum and requirements.

It was recommended that:

- the Department of History should serve as a model for the integration of graduate research and undergraduate teaching in humanities at SIUC.
- the current high level of involvement with COEHS should be maintained to assure that the department continues its accreditation for preparing future history teachers.
- the faculty salary compression issue must be addressed and a suitable formula for equity must be identified.
- the faculty continue its innovative efforts in curricular transformation and its turn toward "transnationalism".
- the Department continue to work with the Department of Foreign Languages to broaden the courses in languages that specialize in reading skills and that expand to include languages not currently offered.

The history faculty were noted to have a shared sense of purpose, civil and open procedures, and a mutual respect. They embrace the mission of the institution and the nature of its student body. The Department is committed to the goals of the Core Curriculum and dedicates much of its teaching effort to this curriculum and to the preparation of future teachers. Students applaud professors for their interest in assisting students in their development. In addition to this broad teaching commitment, almost all of the faculty are active researchers. Efforts for undergraduate research and publication through the *Legacy* publication are lauded. The Department's focus on world history and emphasis on global issues further the institution's diversity commitment. New faculty have degrees from some of the nation's very best programs and conduct research in important emerging areas of scholarship.

It was further recommended that:

- the issue with NCATE accreditation must be addressed with COEHS in immediately hiring faculty to teach the specific methods courses for history majors.
- administrators must recognize how thin the Department has been stretched and identify plans to fund additional lines, continue lecturer positions, and increase TAs.
- the Department continue its careful analysis of interdisciplinary needs in identifying new hires to continue the institutions' commitment to diversity.

- the Department discuss how best to address the focus on global and transnational history into the graduate program that traditionally emphasized U. S. history to add to the distinctiveness, and the distinction, of the graduate program.
- the Department consider increasing doctoral graduates to three a year.
- the Department consider a mechanism to combat salary compression by fostering associate professors' research with a view toward speedy promotion.
- the current initiative to recruit graduate students from the Delta region be supported to open the program to diverse students.
- the class size for the Department's own courses is adequate and should be continued; however, identifying strategies such as giving two course credit for teaching large sections should be considered.
- the Department continue its excellent methods/strategies for advising its majors.
- faculty continue their patterns of integrating their own research with undergraduate teaching.
- the Department monitor progress in history teacher education students' passing the state certification test.
- attention should be given to encouraging women to participate at both graduate and undergraduate levels.
- the assessment system devised for the Department be continued and shared with other units in the University.
- the excellent informal mentoring system for new faculty be continued.
- the outstanding record of public outreach and service, through internship programs and other forms of outreach, be continued.

Finally, the words of the External Review Committee Report can be used to summarize the program review reports--"the History Department was found to be achieving the goal of creating, in the words of the *Southern at 150* plan, a 'student-responsive research university' where 'teaching and scholarship are of the very best.'"