Department of Anthropology

MA Program in Anthropology

Program/Assessment Developments 2010-11

During the academic year, the department faculty devoted portions of three meetings to discuss elements of the graduate program. The most important topics covered included the following items:

1. We continued discussion of the appropriateness of the Anthropological Theory ! and !! graduate seminars, a two semester sequence course. We discussed the positioning of the course as the foundation for the graduate program and the necessity for ensuring the course’s broad coverage of theory from the mid-1800s to the beginning of the 21st century.

It was decided that Professors Susan Brown and Arlene Fradkin would take on the sequence for a two year period. We talked about three students who did not do well in the course during this year, with the feeling that the major problem for them was their lackluster writing abilities. The decision was made to identify such students earlier in the sequence and point them to the Writing Center from the beginning.

2. Four graduate student awards for research/thesis writing were given in April, with the stipulation that the students remain in residence at the university to finish up the thesis work. However, due to budget constraints, two of the awards were cut in half, from $2000 to $1000.

3. The question was raised as to how to improve the coordination of Advanced Research I and II. The feeling was that students, as a group, needed a greater overall structure for planning and completing research projects in these two courses. Professor Fradkin, slated for one of the courses next year, indicated that she would coordinate this.

4. We discussed the second year of the one credit online professional development course that Professor Susan Brown teaches and that is now in its second year. The course introduces students to professional standards for both teaching and research. According to Prof. Brown, the course proceeded well.

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