Department of Anthropology

MA Program in Anthropology

Program/Assessment Developments 201-12

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. An oral report of the Theory 1 and II course was provided by Profs. Fradkin and S. Brown. They redesigned the course to more tightly integrate theory in an historical perspective.

2. The greater level of coordination of the Advanced Research courses appears to be an improvement for student research and for faculty participation. We decided to continue with the more tightly coordinated effort.

3. Student paper presentation at the SAA and AAPA national meetings was discussed, especially the fact that the Quant Methods course had served as the basis for some viable presentations.

4. Four graduate thesis writing/research awards were decided on. The smaller awards of $1000 continued for the Morrow research grantees.

5. The addition of professor Kate Detwiler to the faculty is opening up new opportunities for grad students, particularly the potential to work on genetics projects that involve DNA sequencing and analysis.

6. The Graduate College’s reduction of teaching assistant tuition waivers to 10% above the minimum degree requirement (33 credits for Anthro) was discussed, particularly its negative effect of dropping funding for grad students whose research is focused on primary data collection (field research or lab/museum examination and measurement of specimens). The fear is that the Grad College policy change will negatively affect the research experience that our grad students can accomplish, with the result that students will be pushed to complete thesis projects that are more limited, shorter duration, and, ultimately, less valuable to their future careers.