

Undergraduate Program Review Classical Studies Program

Review Committee:

Harvey Goldman, UCSD Department of Sociology
Brian Palenik, UCSD Scripps Institute of Oceanography
Maria C. Pantelia, UCI Department of Classics

Context

The Classical Studies Program consists of seven full professors (two emeriti, however), one associate professor, one assistant professor, and three lecturers. They come from Philosophy (three), Literature (six), History (one), Visual Arts (one) and Theatre and Dance (one). The three lecturers included above are all from Literature.

The teaching of the affiliated faculty includes several large enrollment courses taught through the colleges. They also teach a major core course LTWL 19A-B-C. This has approximately 30+ students per quarter. The program has 11-14 majors and 4-5 minors.

Since 1995 (near the last review), the Program has graduated 38 BAs. A review of 25 of them shows they include three professors of Classics or Religion; seven are currently in graduate programs in Classics or similar areas. Others have entered law school or secondary education. Current majors are also planning to pursue graduate degrees or medical school.

The program is coordinated by Dr. A. T. Edwards, who has an appointment in the Literature Department. The program has no office and is currently administered through the History Department.

The committee met with Dr. A. T. Edwards, undergraduate students, affiliated faculty and lecturers on May 30th 2012. Harvey Goldman was absent due to a death in his family, but he later contributed to this report. Miky Ramirez (Senior Analyst, Academic Senate) also took part in the committee meetings and provided background information to the committee and valuable questions for the participants.

Findings

The committee found that the Classics Studies Program has engaged, energetic, and articulate majors about half of whom came to present their enthusiasm for the program. They described their teachers as dedicated to the program and to the education of the students. The teachers (faculty and lecturers) are available for help, willing to maintain small classes even as independent studies classes, and doing an excellent job with no resources and often poor physical classroom space.

The faculty are of a high caliber and well-known in their field. They include some younger members, one assistant and one associate professor, and the program is looking forward to the start of Ed Watts, a new hire in the area. The program faculty are important contributors to UCSD community visibility, for example one faculty member, well known internationally for her work on performance is also very visible locally through the translation and staging of Greek plays in San Diego theater groups.

The program appears to be undervalued by UCSD, in the sense that it functions with essentially no program support. At the same time the program has great potential for offering additional courses with high enrollments such as medical terminology and at least modestly increasing the number of majors.

Some of the problems the committee noted in its meetings are that:

There is a lack of dedicated space for the program, particularly for undergraduate mentoring and tutoring, and meetings with other undergraduates and perhaps graduate students in the program.

The program receives no funding. It is possible that the students have less access to general funds that might be available for students in regular departments such as History or Literature since they are part of neither. Some modest funds available in the past have disappeared (these supported program trips to the Getty collection for example and guest speakers).

There is a major lack of coordination between History and Literature Departments in the advising of students. Formal advising is through History, but practical advising is through Literature since most course offerings are through Literature. Students, staff and faculty were all somewhat disappointed and frustrated with the current system.

Small interdisciplinary programs seem to have a difficulty time in general at UCSD currently as resources flow through departments and Classical Studies is a prime example.

General comments and recommendations

Given the national trends toward declining numbers of Humanities majors and declining enrollments, especially in language courses, small, high-quality classics programs like the one at UCSD need to do everything possible to improve their position. They need to advertize, one hopes with administration support, their contribution to the larger educational project of UCSD in shaping educated citizens who understand the origins of many features of the history, thought, and culture of the modern world, and who can analyze arguments, texts, political and intellectual debates precisely because they know these things. In a world of multi-culturalism, ancient culture must continue to be valued as one of those cultures.

Recommendations:

The Classical Studies Program can take some inexpensive steps to improve the program and perhaps enrollments.

- 1) Hold regular program meetings at least once per year with all faculty and lecturers to discuss pedagogical issues as well as strategies to increase enrollment and promote program cohesion
- 2) Better advertise and promote the program. Some of these are suggestions that may be in place but it was not information provided to the review committee such as:
 - A) Better use of a website to show the activities of the program, which courses are currently being offered, etc.
 - B) UCSD has an Admit Day in April or May, and Classics could set up a table there. It would need to provide some small leaflets, and that is something it could try to raise money for, either from donors or from the Administration.
 - C) Since so many of its students are taking Literature Department courses, it needs a visible presence there, with a leaflet about the program among any leaflets about specialties that the Department puts out at its reception desk.
 - D) Try to make such leaflets available also in Social Science departments, or at least among social science faculty, so that they can do promotion in their courses.
 - E) The colleges regularly try to provide information to their undergraduates on potential majors. It would be good to do outreach with them about this.
 - F) Reach out to faculty who are not currently Classics faculty, to try to invite them to be members of the Program. There seem to be several faculty that would seem to be logical members of the program but aren't.

3) Cross-list all courses taught by affiliated faculty with a Classical Studies Number. This requires a simple course approval form submission per course. This will help students and outsiders recognize the contributions of the faculty and the program which was difficult for the review committee to view. At the same time, carry out a review of the current course catalog copy as the committee felt there might be errors or missing descriptions.

4) Engage the current population of majors in the broader classics community. Encourage them to join the national classics honor society (Eta Sigma Phi). Arrange bus trips to other southern California campuses with classics programs such as Irvine for joint symposia. Consider the reduction in the honors GPA to 3.5 so that students could participate in writing an honors thesis that might better prepare them for graduate programs. 3.5 is a standard in some other departments.

5) Consider some new courses that could have high enrollments and could be feeder courses for the language courses. Potential courses that have done well at other institutions are “Medical terminology” and “Ancient Medicine” for example.

6) Consider offering Freshman Seminars as a way of attracting majors.

7) Discuss with other small interdisciplinary programs what are effective strategies and courses for UCSD. For example meet with Science Studies Program faculty.

8) Given the long period between formal UCSD review, consider informal reviews by scholars from other classics departments on perhaps a five year cycle.

At the same time, UCSD administration can and should help improve the program.

1) Provide better coordination between History and Literature in the advising of undergraduates in the program.

2) Provide a small room for undergraduates for locating reference materials, tutoring, and for program community enhancement. This would likely help in increasing at least modestly the enrollment of the program. Perhaps this could be done jointly with a few other small area studies (CAESAR) programs. The MSO of the History Department felt this request might be possible to fulfill.

3) Provide a small amount of funding for program enrichment and community building. Speaker travel costs, trips to Getty, etc.

4) Provide a small amount of support or training for website maintenance. Or this should be handled by the History or Literature Departments more effectively.

5) Allow a balancing of teaching load so that classics faculty who teach large classics may still be able to offer small enrollment classes that are important for the program rather than cancelling them or having to offer them as overloads at an arbitrary level. This will help maintain some of the language classes needed by students for graduation.

6) Help faculty and lecturers develop and teach new potentially high enrollment courses such as *Medical Terminology* or *Ancient Medicine*. The faculty and lecturers felt there were institutional barriers hindering the offering of these courses.

7) Help faculty interface with community colleges to see if summer courses or other mechanisms can bring additional transfer students into the program.

8) Help in the recruitment of new FTEs to the program. The program appears to be down three FTEs (two in History, and one in Literature) relative to previous years. A strategic hire in the very near future would greatly help the morale of the program as well as helping with its long term stability.

October 4, 2013

PROFESSOR ANTHONY EDWARDS, Director
Classical Studies Program

PROFESSOR SETH LERER, Dean
Division of Arts and Humanities

SUBJECT: Undergraduate Program Review for the Classical Studies Program

The Undergraduate Council considered the report of the subcommittee charged with reviewing the undergraduate program of Classical Studies Program at its February 8, 2013 meeting. The Council supports the findings and the recommendations of the review subcommittee. Particularly, we wish to comment on the following:

1. **Improving major and minor enrollments through the development of highly visible courses.** The review subcommittee recommended that the Program offer a course in medical terminology, as other UCs have found that this type of course has been an effective way of introducing Classics to a broad undergraduate audience. The Council appreciates the Program's concerns with developing a course on medical terminology specifically. In its response, the Program discusses the fact that large, lower division courses taught by Program faculty have a poor track record of recruiting majors (MMW and HUM courses are referenced). The Council would not expect students to consider Classics as a course of study from their involvement in MMW, HUM, or other very large, work-intensive, and required general education (GE) courses.

While the Council understands that developing a new course in medical terminology may not be a viable option the Program, the Council considers the essence of the review subcommittee's recommendation sound and with merit. We therefore recommend that the Program consider the development of a broadly-appealing lower division courses that can serve to satisfy GE requirements in the colleges and is tailored to highlight Classical Studies. This should be tailored to the interest of the UCSD Classical Studies Program faculty. Such a course could be cross-listed between the faculty's home department and the Program), and has the potential to be of great interest to large numbers of students and their colleges. (The Council is generally supportive of cross-listing between programs and departments. The Program should not assume that this type of request would be denied.)

2. **Improving support for small interdisciplinary programs.** Many of the administrative and resource issues faced by the Program are true for many small interdisciplinary programs. We recommend that Division consider how support for these small programs may be improved, given the limited resources available. The review subcommittee report makes clear that further refinements to the restructuring of support may still be need. For example: Can academic advising be better coordinated between CAESAR and participating departments? Can CAESAR and like programs have dedicated undergraduate space that can be shared between programs? Do staffing needs and reporting lines for these programs need to be reassessed? Many of the recommendations of the review subcommittee for the Classical Studies Program require small amounts of funding that may, in turn, go far in promoting faculty involvement and re-energizing student interest in the Program.

The Council looks forward to seeing your responses to the issues above. At the time of the one year follow up (Spring 2014), the Council will revisit the issues above with the Program and the Division. The follow up review will pay particular attention to the Program's efforts to implement recommendation #1 above and the other recommendations of the review subcommittee. The Council extends its thanks to the core and affiliated faculty of

the Classical Studies Program for their engagement in this process. Please feel free to contact the Council with any questions or issues, as you implement the recommendations of the report.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Todd, Chair
2012-13 Undergraduate Council

cc: G. Boss
J. Nieh
K. Pogliano

R. Rodriguez
B. Sawrey