

AMST Minutes  
February 22, 2007

Present: Sarah Robbins, Ed Chan, Jesse Benjamin, Ernesto Silva, Jiayan Zhang, Robert Devillar, Dorothy Graham, LeeAnn Lands, Dede Yow, Caitlin McCannon, Janie Mardis, Dan Paracka, Chris Smith, Anastasia Hardy, Susan Rouse

Sarah called the meeting to order. Everyone introduced themselves.

Ed Chan gave an overview of his paper on the interpretations of American culture in film. The article is attached to the email agenda.

After a discussion of Ed's presentation, we moved on to the business part of the meeting.

Sarah said that Nina is now on her way to Morocco and will report back to our group on the discussions about collaborations between AMST programs and those in Morocco. Sarah has been exchanging email information with her counterpart in Morocco about AMST.

Sarah updated us on the MA program. Teresa Joyce (Dean of Graduate Studies) has decided to resubmit the letter of intent for the MA to the BOR. Sarah and LeeAnn will meet with Teresa to discuss some minor changes in the proposal that reflect the new KSU strategic plan and to reiterate the global emphasis of the MA program.. Sarah and LeeAnn will keep the group updated over email about the status of the letter of intent.

Ed said that some minor changes have been made to the mission statement to reflect the previous discussion. Sarah also added a paragraph that described outreach and collaborative aspects of the program. Ed said that some editorial changes have not yet been completed. LeeAnn moved and seconded that the mission statement be approved with the understanding that these editorial revisions are to come. The motion passed.

LeeAnn presented the draft ad for the History/AMST joint appointment. The ad has Mexico and Central America as the area of specialization and lists several specialties. She said the search committee agreed that the outreach/service required in the position could be in Mexico, Central America or in NW Georgia.

The committee is in the process of deciding whether the main conference interviews will be at LASA or AHA. Some recruitment might be done at ASA.

Sarah pointed out that Vicki Ruiz who is doing a workshop in early fall might be able to help with recruitment strategies and how to make the interdisciplinary connections appealing to candidates. The search committee is LeeAnn (chair), Tom Keene and Alan Lebaron (History), Ed Chan and Susan Rouse (AMST).

Dan Paracka said that there is now a group working on putting together an Asian Studies proposal. (There is already an Asian Studies minor.) He hopes that there will be collaboration between AMST and Asian Studies, including in terms of new faculty and new courses.

Dan also mentioned that much of the programming for the Year of the Atlantic World should be of interest to AMST faculty and students.

LeeAnn distributed the newest draft of the major proposal. It addresses issues that were raised last time, including about related areas and the number of 4000-level courses. Jesse Benjamin suggested that there are some Sociology courses that might fit into the major. He is also developing a course that might cross-list in AMST.

Students had a draft of the flyer for the minor. Some suggestions were made for revisions. Everyone agreed, though, that the flyer was well-designed and well-executed.

Chris Smith reported that the student group is forming. They are working on a flyer and thinking about how to connect from different AMST courses with each other.

Dot Graham reported on the recommendations of her committee on hiring priorities in AMST. They recommended a hire dedicated to AMST alone of a PhD with a degree in AMST to teach methods and perhaps ethnic studies. They also discussed a second hire to be shared with GWST. The group discussed these options, along with the sharing of an Asian-American position with the Asian Studies program. Susan moved and LeeAnn seconded placing the methods position, as an AMST line not shared with other programs or departments, as the first hiring priority. The motion passed. Dot moved and LeeAnn seconded a proposal to identify a ranking of our second and third hiring priorities as either a shared position with Asian Studies (i.e., Asian American Studies on the AMST side of a joint appointment) or GWST, depending on which program is moving most quickly toward a major and what the needs of AMST are in light of the secondary area of the person hired for the methods position. The motion passed.

Sarah announced that the reception is set in the Interdisciplinary Suite for March 15 at 3:30-5:00. The reception will be followed by a presentation by Kimberly Wallace-Sanders of Emory about images of black women in American culture.

Sarah reminded everyone that Barbara McCaskill will be on campus April 5 and 6 and will give a workshop on community outreach in American Studies. She will use her own funded project as an example.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes for the previous meeting be approved. The motion passed.

Next meeting: March 22, WB 117, 12:30-1:45

Susan Rouse  
AMST secretary