

American Studies Minutes  
November 30, 2006

Present: Sarah Robbins, Bob Hill, Susan Rouse, Dot Graham, Catherine Lewis, LeeAnn Lands, Thierry Leger, Nina Morgan, Ernesto Silva, Linda Niemann, Dede Yow, Ed Chan, Howard Shealy, Kay Reeve

Guest presenters: Brian Chamberlain, Perry Walden

1. The meeting was called to order. Kay Reeve's students (Brian Chamberlain and Perry Walden) from the History of the West did presentations about their use of images from the Booth Museum in Cartersville.
2. Kay has a forthcoming article (Crossing Borders, Finding Common Ground: Using Interdisciplinary Approaches and Sources for Teaching Western History) in *Journal of the American West* about this project.
3. Sarah will have an update on the budget at the beginning of the year. The student assistant hire could be made in time to help with the move to the new building. Nina moved and Kay seconded that we approve the student assistant hire. Motion passed. Please get names of particular students to Sarah or LeeAnn.
4. Sarah announced and Thierry described the AMST joint appointments with History (Latin American/immigration) and with English (Latino Studies). Both positions are 50/50 with home discipline department. Primary service activity will be in AMST, teaching split between home department and AMST.
5. Search committees will be formed soon so that the ads can be written very early in spring semester. Both committees will be chaired by faculty from the home department, have five members, and include AMST representatives. (Please contact Sarah if you are interested in serving on a committee.) Ads should be approved by March so that they can be circulated informally before the searches officially begin in the fall. There will need to be collaboration between the committees in writing the ads. The searches will contact various programs, including students at conferences (AHA, MLA, and ASA in October) and program directors. Thanks to Howard, Bill Rice and the dean for the positions and agreeing to share the positions. Next year temps will fill the lines.
6. LeeAnn said that the curriculum committee will meet on December 5 to work on developing the major. She asked that we talk about what we wanted students to get from the program. Points mentioned included:
  - Using local metro area as subject/resource;
  - Produce students who understand empathetic inquiry;
  - Students should understand/have skills to differentiate between disciplinary and interdisciplinary inquiry;
  - Understand theoretical and empirical inquiry;

- Knowledge of field and ability to critique field (What is American Studies?);
  - Civic and global engagement (note—use Carnegie language and refer to QEP);
  - Practice critical inquiry/ function of myth and representation;
  - Theorizing of material culture, grounded in American life;
  - Vocabulary of American Studies.
7. The next meeting will be January 25.
  8. Meeting adjourned.

Susan Rouse  
Secretary