November 19, 2018

To: ASC Curriculum Committee

From: Laura Podalsky, Chair of SPPO 

Re: Changes to the minor in Andean and Amazonian Studies

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese would like to make changes in the Andean and Amazonian Studies (AAS) minor in order to update the course offerings and recognize the relevance of a new study abroad program (Pachaysana in Ecuador).

In cleaning up the course offerings, we have a number of goals. We want to eliminate courses that are no longer offered or taught. We also want to clarify when certain courses fulfill core vs. elective requirements, as the amount of AAS “content” can vary when different instructors teach a given course or in variable topics courses. Students would need to present documentation (e.g. a syllabus) and get approval from the coordinator of the AAS minor (a faculty member in SPPO) in order to count such courses as an elective or core course toward completion of the minor.

As noted above, the changes also are an effort to showcase how an innovative (12 credit-hour) study abroad program (Pachaysana in Ecuador) can serve as a pathway to complete the minor. This program was created several years ago and has established equivalencies with courses here at OSU. As the AAS minor has grown, we have realized that students may not be aware of this opportunity as a means to move toward completion of their minor. After taking at least one (3-credit-hour) course here at OSU, students could go abroad for a semester and complete the AAS minor. Of course, students can complete the minor without going abroad, by taking coursework here at OSU.