



November 14, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

On October 23, 2024, the Arts and Humanities Subcommittee 2 reviewed a request from the Center for Ethnic Studies (CES) to create a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization (GIS) in Asian American Studies. The GIS will offer graduate students “an opportunity for interdisciplinary research to understand the rich and complex layers ... that shape and inform Asian American peoples in the US and that they in turn shape in their political, educational, cultural, and historical struggle and participation.”

Complementing the existing undergraduate minor in Asian American Studies (overseen by CES), the proposed GIS will allow graduate students to pursue coursework in Asian American Studies in a manner that complements their research program in other fields. The proposal responds to existing interest expressed by current graduate students and will be made feasible by the three current searches. The new faculty will hold a 50% appointment in Asian American Studies and be able to staff existing offerings at the undergraduate level as well as created expanded offering at the graduate level.

To complete the 12-credit hour GIS, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- take at least 6 credit-hours of coursework in US Ethnic or Asian American Studies
- take at least 9 credit-hours of coursework from at least 2 graduate programs outside their home department
- take at least 1 course by a faculty member affiliated with Asian American Studies

A&H Subcommittee 2 voted unanimously to approve the request with one contingency that has since been addressed by the unit and the proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Podalsky
Professor
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Chair, ASCC A&H Subcommittee 2