ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
Eighth Annual Portfolio Review
2:00-3:30 p.m. Cramer Hall 141
4 June 2010
K.M. Ames

PRESENT

Kenneth Ames, Professor (Anthropology Department Chairperson and Archaeologist)
Virginia Butler, Professor (Archaeologist)
Sharon Carstens, Professor (Sociocultural Anthropologist)
Michele Gamburd, Professor (Sociocultural Anthropologist)
Jeremy Spoon, Assistant Professor (Sociocultural Anthropologist)
Doug Wilson Adjunct, Associate Professor (Archaeologist)

ABSENT:
Natalie Vasey, Associate Professor (Biological Anthropologist): On Sabbatical

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
This year the Department did not assess individual courses as we had in the past, but discussed the direction of the assessment program. We have completed a full round of assessing all goals in required courses and in selected 300 and 400 level elective courses so the time seemed appropriate to reflect on the assessment program itself. We will begin assessing classes again during the 2010-2011 academic year. As part of this discussion, the department also pondered the impacts of the coming mandatory advising requirements on the department, including how both the advising and the workload would be managed. The department also considered how assessing advising could be integrated into the current assessment methodology.

OUTCOMES:

- There was strong agreement that the current assessment process and methodology is serving the department well. The department has tinkered with both since assessment was initially implemented and this gradual approach of reflection and tinkering works well for us. The Department has been reinforced in this view by feedback coming to us from various places in the University.

- Extend assessment activities to include courses taught by adjunct/fixed term faculty. The Department has become increasingly reliant on adjunct faculty over the past several years. This development is a consequence of having faculty on protracted leaves, and course buyouts resulting from grant/contract and administrative activities. Up to this point, our assessment activities have been restricted to courses taught by tenure-line faculty but it is clearly essential to assess more broadly.
- Mandatory advising will be considered more formally in the department’s Fall retreat, preparatory to the 2010-2011 academic year.

- The department will decide what courses in which conduct assessment at that Retreat.

- The expansion of assessment to include assessment will be discussed with Adjunct faculty at the Retreat. They will be invited to the retreat.