<u>Department of Asian & Asian & Asian American Studies</u>

Strategic Planning for the decade ahead

Introduction

The process was set in motion pursuant to an e-mail from Interim Dean Nancy Squires dated Nov.12, 2009 which stated, ***inter alia***,

"At yesterday's University Council meeting the President presented a draft of the strategic planning process. As part of that process each college and school will be asked to formulate its own strategic plan. Our own plan will undoubtedly be one of the most complex, so I think we need to get started. This is especially the case since the first phase will be an analysis of where we stand now, so that we can set realistic goals for where we want to be in 10 years, and the self-assessment process needs to begin"

This was reinforced by another, more recent, e-mail from Dean Squires dated April 14, 2010 which stated, ***inter alia,***

I will be making a presentation of the draft plan at the University Council meeting on June 6th. To help in developing the plan, I'd like to offer all the faculty members in your department the opportunity to offer suggestions, so please forward this to your department members.

The issue to be addressed is as follows: the President has asked each unit (school or college) to develop a strategic plan that is visionary, imagining the directions in which that school or college should develop over the next ten years. Please tell me what you think is the most important thing to be included in the CAS strategic plan.

Where the AAAS Dept stands today

The Department of Asian & Asian-American Studies is among the youngest on the Stony Brook campus. It was conceived at the turn of the new millennium, came into existence in 2002, and started functioning fully in 2003, with faculty cobbled together from the erstwhile departments Linguistics, Comparative Studies, and SSI (Social Sciences Interdisciplinary) etc. Whatever the concerned authorities had in mind at the time, the Department has already carved an enviable reputation for itself as being among a select few in the US that integrates the study and teaching of Asian & Asian-American issues. Our regular faculty (i.e. not counting the adjunct professors, but who also contribute a great deal) total 17 in number, as follows

Professors (Tenured) 4

Associate Profs (Tenured)	3
Asst Profs (on tenure track)	3
Lecturers	5
Visiting Professors	2

Starting with 39 courses in 2003, the number of courses reached a maximum of 57 in Spring 2009.

As the table below shows, nearly 25,000 students have passed through the portals of the department since its modest inception in 2003, a mere 7 years ago.

Regular Semesters	**No. of Courses**	**Total Enrollment**
☐ Fall 2003	39	1313
☐ Sp. 2004	37	1352
☐ Fall 2004	38	1481
☐ Sp. 2005	37	1450
☐ Fall 2005	38	1506
☐ Sp. 2006	44	1634
☐ Fall 2006	48	1923
☐ Sp. 2007	46	1645
☐ Fall 2007	52	1998
☐ Sp. 2008	48	1688
☐ Fall 2008	56	2119
☐ Spring 2009	57	2005
☐ Fall 2009	52	2247
☐ Spring 2010	46	2104
	Total	**24,465**

Summer Semesters		
☐ Summer 2006	11	300
☐ Summer 2007	11	390
☐ Summer 2008	12	336
☐ Summer 2009	15	347
	Total	**1373**

What the above figures make it clear beyond any shadow of doubt is that there is both ample interest, and consequently demand, for these courses in Asian and Asian-American studies on this campus. This, of course, is only to be expected, as we are, at least on the US eastern seaboard, perhaps the most cosmopolitan campus in terms of size and the spread of nationalities represented on-campus, the vast majority of whom have an Asian background. I strongly feel that this is a

strength that we could and should build upon and surely enough we will see the enrolment numbers grow from year to year

Where do we want to go from here ?

- ☐ Appoint lecturers in Hindi, Japanese and Korean
  (as soon as the hiring freeze is over)

- ☐ State Certification for a Program in Teaching Asian Languages
  (work in progress)

Graduate Programs in Asian Studies

- M.A. in Asian Studies ***(work in progress)***
- M.A. in Asian-American Studies
- M.A. in Teaching Asian Languages

- ☐ As a Department of Asian Studies, we are well covered in to teach courses relating to East, Southeast, South and West Asia, but one entire swathe – namely Central Asia – is an area that stands out as a huge gaping hole. Until the end of the Cold War, this area was completely isolated from the outside world as part of the former Soviet Union. Now with the Central Asian Republics stepping on to the world stage in their own right, we need to get to know them better. We suffer from a complete lack of any regional knowledge and expertise in respect of the whole of this area – which is becoming increasingly critical for the US in many ways – ranging from being a hotbed of terrorism at one end to a massive resource base for hydrocarbons on the other. Yet we know so little about this area and feel, as a Department that it is something that needs to be addressed as part of any strategic restructuring effort in the foreseeable future.

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