Special Consideration Items
Texas A&M University
New Certificate, Bachelors, Masters, or Doctoral Program
• Proposal Checklist •

Requested by the Department or Unit of: The Africana Studies Program

**Program Type, Level, Designation, Title, Description, Hours**
Program Type Certificate Program ☒ Degree Program □
Program Level Undergrad Certificate □ Grad Certificate ☒ Bachelor □ Master □ Doctoral □
Degree Designation (i.e., BS, BA, MA, MS, MAg, Med, PhD, EdD, etc.)
Title of proposed program: Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies
Proposed CIP Code (if known): 05.0101

Brief program description (provide a catalog description for undergraduate and graduate certificates):
The Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies offers interested master or doctoral students an opportunity to develop an interdisciplinary graduate concentration in Africana Studies while earning a degree in a disciplinary major field. In addition to gaining knowledge of Africa and its Diaspora, students pursuing the certificate will also benefit from the interdisciplinary training that is the hallmark of Africana Studies. Students will be exposed to the scholarship, methodology, and theories of multiple disciplines that contribute to the critical analysis and understanding of the Africana world.

**Minimum program semester credit hours (SCH)**
- Certificates - 12 hours*
- Bachelors - 120 hours
- Masters - 30 hours
Proposed program hours: 12

*12 hours minimum to appear on transcript

**Off-Campus or Distance Delivery**
% of Program a student can take off-campus or through
Distance Education
- Program Start Date
- SACS Approval**
- When Provost needs to inform SACS
  - Notification Only
  - Approval Required

25% □
50% □
80% □
100% □

**Notification letter arranged through the Assistant Provost and sent by TAMU President.**

**Program Delivery Mode**
- On-campus ☒
- Broadcast / TTVN □
- Specific off-campus location*** □
- Distance Education / Internet
  - In-State □
  - Out-of-State □
  - Start Date
- Out-of-Country

Will this program be offered with another institution? Yes □ No ☒
If yes, contact Assistant Provost for additional reporting requirements.

***Is this an approved SACS location? Yes ☒ No □
If no, a program prospectus must be sent to SACS.
Approved locations as of September 2009: TAMU-Galveston, TAMU-Qatar, University Center-The Woodlands, Dubai (EMBA)

**Program Funding**
Has program funding been finalized at the department or college level? Yes ☒ No □
If no, explain or attach budget: ______

Will new costs for the first five years of the program be under $2 million? Yes ☒ No □
If new costs exceed $2 million, coordinating board approval is required.
Submitted by (Contact Person):
Kimberly Nichole Brown, Ph.D.

Name
Director of The Africana Studies Program
Title

knbrown@tamu.edu
Email
979-845-0264
Phone

Certification Statement
By signing below, the Dean of the College certifies the proposed program complies with coordinating board standards. If the program is delivered through Distance Education, the Dean of the College certifies that they are following the Principles of Good Practice for Academic Degree and Certificate Programs and Credit Courses Offered Electronically.

Use additional signature lines if program is between three or more departments or colleges.

[Signature, Department Head or Interdisciplinary]
Program Chair
Kimberly Nichole Brown, Ph.D.
[Typed or Printed Name]
10-28-10
Date

[Signature, Department Head or Interdisciplinary]
Program Chair (if joint program)
[Typed or Printed Name]
11-22-10
Date

Chair, College Review Committee
[Typed or Printed Name]
12-10-10
Date

Dean of College
[Typed or Printed Name]
Date

Chair, University Curriculum Committee or
Graduate Council
[Typed or Printed Name]
Date

Dean of College
[Typed or Printed Name]
Date

Chair, University Curriculum Committee or
Graduate Council
[Typed or Printed Name]
Date

Additional Approvals Required: Faculty Senate and President.
New Program Request Form for Certificate Programs, Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees

Directions: An institution shall use this form to propose a new bachelor’s or master’s degree program. In completing the form, the institution should refer to the document Standards for Bachelor’s and Master’s Programs, which prescribes specific requirements for new degree programs. Note: This form requires signatures of (1) the Chief Executive Officer, certifying adequacy of funding for the new program; (2) a member of the Board of Regents (or designee), certifying Board approval, and (3) if applicable, a member of the Board of Regents or (designee), certifying that criteria have been met for staff-level approval. NOTE: Preliminary authority is required for all engineering programs. An institution that does not have preliminary authority for a proposed engineering program shall submit a separate request for preliminary authority prior to submitting the degree program request form. That request shall address criteria set in Coordinating Board rules Section 5.24 (a).

Administrative Information

1. **Institution:**
   Texas A & M University

2. **Program Name** – Show how the program would appear on the Coordinating Board’s program inventory (e.g., *Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Accounting*):
   Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies

3. **Proposed CIP Code:**
   05.0101

4. **Brief Program Description** – Describe the program and the educational objectives:

   The Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies offers interested master or doctoral students an opportunity to develop an interdisciplinary graduate concentration in Africana Studies while earning a degree in a disciplinary major field. In addition to gaining knowledge of Africa and its Diaspora, students pursuing the certificate will also benefit from the interdisciplinary training that is the hallmark of Africana Studies. Students will be exposed to the scholarship, methodology, and theories of multiple disciplines that contribute to the critical analysis and understanding of the Africana world.

   Number of Semester Credit Hours Required: 12

5. **Administrative Unit** – Identify where the program would fit within the organizational structure of the university (e.g., *The Department of Electrical Engineering within the College of Engineering*):

   The Africana Studies Program within the College of Liberal Arts

6. **Proposed Implementation Date** – Report the first semester and year that students would enter the program:

   Fall 2011

7. **Contact Person** – Provide contact information for the person who can answer specific questions about the program:
Name: Kimberly Nichole Brown, Ph.D.

Title: Director of The Africana Studies Program

E-mail: knbrown@tamu.edu

Phone: 979-845-0264

Program Information

I. Need

Note: Complete I.A and I.B only if preliminary authority for the program was granted more than four years ago. This includes programs for which the institution was granted broad preliminary authority for the discipline.

A. Job Market Need – Provide short- and long-term evidence of the need for graduates in the job market.

In an increasingly pluralistic society and global economy, students cannot afford to enter into the workforce without a fundamental respect and understanding of people from different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Africana Studies equips students to be competitive in a diverse global marketplace.

B. Student Demand – Provide short- and long-term evidence of demand for the program.

Diversity is a key component in the Vision 2020 plan. In light of the aims of 2020, many departments have revamped their curricular offerings to attract a more diverse graduate student population. This certificate would enable departments to attract minority and other students who are interested in diversity, and race and ethnicity issues. Ensuring that the certificate is reflected on student transcripts enables students to substantiate their proficiency in Africana Studies when they are applying for jobs that place a particular emphasis on diversity and cross-cultural competency.

C. Enrollment Projections – Use this table to show the estimated cumulative headcount and full-time student equivalent (FTSE) enrollment for the first five years of the program. (Include majors only and consider attrition and graduation.)

Enrollment Projections are unavailable at this time.

II. Quality
A. **Certificate and Degree Requirements** – Use this table to show the certificate and degree requirements of the program. *(Modify the table as needed; if necessary, replicate the table for more than one option.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Semester Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education Core Curriculum <em>(bachelor's degree only)</em></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Courses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Electives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other <em>(Specify, e.g., internships, clinical work)</em></td>
<td>(if not included above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. **Curriculum** – Use these tables to identify the required courses and prescribed electives of the program, and curriculum as it will appear in the undergraduate and graduate catalog. Note with an asterisk (*) courses that would be added if the program is approved. *(Add and delete rows as needed. If applicable, replicate the tables for different tracks/options as shown in the undergraduate catalog.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix and Number</th>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>SCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*AFST 501</td>
<td>Methods of Inquiry into Africana Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prescribed Courses**

**Note:** The following is a sampling of courses that count towards the fulfillment of the certificate requirements. Students are allowed to select 3 hours of humanities credits and 3 hours of social science credits from the list below. New courses will be added to the list annually. Students will be asked to consult with the Africana Studies director for the most current list of courses, or to inquire about the possibility of including an Africana-content course that is not listed below.

**Note:** While senior-level undergraduate courses (400-level) are included on the list, only 3 credit hours of coursework may be taken at that level to count toward the Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies; the remainder of the credit hours must be at the graduate level. Also **note** that
with prior approval, up to 3 of the 12 required credit hours may be taken through an Independent Study or a Readings Course in a Africana-content course in the student’s major department. If the student’s thesis or dissertation involves a substantial Africana Studies focus, up to 3 hours of the thesis or dissertation research hours may be counted toward the certificate provided that the research is shared through a public forum on the A & M campus (e.g., brown bag, Glasscock lecture, RESI lecture, etc.). It is understood that courses counted toward the certificate may also count toward the major degree requirements.

**Partial Graduate Course List**

ENGL 668. Topics in African American and Africana Literature and Culture
HIST 636. History of the American South
PERF 605. Topics in Globalization and Performance Studies. (Dependent on chosen topic. Chosen topic must be 50% AFST content)
POLS 625. Seminar in Comparative Race and Ethnic Politics.
POLS 644. Seminar in Politics of Race, Ethnicity and Public Policy.
POLS 674. Seminar in Race, Ethnicity and American Politics.
POLS 660. Gateway Seminar: Politics of Race and Ethnicity
SOCI 617. Comparative Ethnic Relations.
SOCI 660. Theories of Race and Ethnic Group Relations.
SOCI 662. Racism and Anti-Racism.
SOCI 663. Black and Latino Americans.
SOCI 667. Seminar in Race and Ethnic Relations.

**400 Level Courses**

AFST 481. Senior Seminar in Africana Studies
AFST 485. Directed Studies in Africana Studies
AFST 489. Special Topics in Africana Studies
AFST 491. Research in Africana Studies
ANTH 445. Anthropology of the African Diaspora (In development)
ANTH 440. Anthropology of Globalization (In development)
COMM 425. Rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement.
FILM 401. National Cinema History. (When the subject is AFST related)
HIST 401. Slavery in World History.
HIST 449. History of Brazil, 1822 to the Present.

**Potential Courses Outside of the College of Liberal Arts**

EDCI 642. Multicultural Education: Theory, Research and Practice.
EDCI 643. Teaching in Urban Environments.
HLTH 635. Race, Ethnicity and Health.
PLAN 623. Development Planning in Third World Countries.
SPSY 629. Psychosocial Variables in the Education of Minority Children.
SPED 611. Multicultural Special Education.
SPMT 613. Diversity in Sport Organizations.

**400 Level Courses**
ALED 422. Cultural Pluralism in Agriculture.
ARCH 458. Cultural and Ethical Considerations for Global Practice.
EHRD 408. Diversity Issues and Practices in HRD.
URSC 461. Urban Issues.

C. **Faculty** – Use these tables to provide information about Core and Support faculty. Add an asterisk (*) before the name of the individual who will have direct administrative responsibilities for the program. *(Add and delete rows as needed.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Faculty Rank</th>
<th>Highest Degree and Awarding Institution</th>
<th>Courses Assigned in Program</th>
<th>% Time Assigned To Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g.: Robertson, David Asst. Professor</td>
<td>PhD. in Molecular Genetics Univ. of Texas at Dallas</td>
<td>MG200, MG285 MG824 (Lab Only)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Kimberly N. Brown Associate Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in English University of Maryland</td>
<td>ENGL 668</td>
<td>95% (The majority of my courses are cross-listed with AFST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Busdiecker Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Anthropology University of Notre Dame</td>
<td>AFST 601 ANTH 440 ANTH 445</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrienne Carter-Sowell</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Psychology Purdue University</td>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Castor Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Anthropology University of Chicago</td>
<td>AFST 601 ANTH 440 ANTH 445</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Donkor Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Performance Studies Northwestern University</td>
<td>AFST 601 PERF 605</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aisha Durham Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Communication University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>AFST 601 AFST 489</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alain Lawo-Sukam Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Spanish University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>AFST 481 AFST 489</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phia Salter Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Psychology University of Kansas</td>
<td>AFST 601</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikko Tuhkanen Associate Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in English (University of Tampere – Finland) Ph.D. in Comparative Literature – State University of New York -- Buffalo</td>
<td>ENGL 668</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Faculty in Year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Updated 06.07.2010*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Support Faculty and Faculty Rank</th>
<th>Highest Degree and Awarding Institution</th>
<th>Courses Assigned in Program</th>
<th>% Time Assigned To Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nandini Bhattacharya Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in English University of Rochester</td>
<td>ENGL 673.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Bonner</td>
<td>Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration and College Teaching The University of Arkansas -- Fayetteville</td>
<td>(We intend to cross-list with the College of ED shortly – he’s listed in anticipation of this expansion)</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Broussard Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in History Duke University</td>
<td>AFST 489</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenn Chambers Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in History Howard University</td>
<td>AFST 489</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Collins Associate Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in English Columbia University</td>
<td>ENGL 668</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tommy Curry Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Philosophy Southern Illinois University-Carbondale</td>
<td>AFST 601</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leroy Dorsey Associate Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Speech Communication Indiana University</td>
<td>COMM 407 COMM 425</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Earhart Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in English Texas A &amp; M University</td>
<td>AFST 489.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Feagin Professor</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Sociology Harvard University</td>
<td>SOCI 617. SOCI 660. SOCI 662. SOCI 667</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Gatson</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Sociology Northwestern University</td>
<td>SOCI 617. SOCI 660. SOCI 662. SOCI 667</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shona Jackson</td>
<td>Ph.D. –Program in Modern Thought and Literature Stanford University</td>
<td>ENGL 668 ENGL 673</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Jewell</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Sociology University of Los Angeles</td>
<td>SOCI 617. SOCI 660. SOCI 662. SOCI 667</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reuben May</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Sociology University of Chicago</td>
<td>SOCI 617. SOCI 660. SOCI 662. SOCI 667</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Meese</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Communication</td>
<td>AFST 489</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Degree/Education</td>
<td>Courses</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Leo Moore</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Sociology University of Minnesota</td>
<td>SOCI 617, SOCI 660, SOCI 662, SOCI 667</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Oliver</td>
<td>Ph.D. in English University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>ENGL 668</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ernest Starks</td>
<td>Ph.D. in History University of Houston</td>
<td>AFST 489</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Yarak</td>
<td>Ph.D. in History Northwestern University</td>
<td>AFST 489</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. **Students** – Describe general recruitment efforts and admission requirements. In accordance with the institution’s Uniform Recruitment and Retention Strategy, describe plans to recruit, retain, and graduate students from underrepresented groups for the program.

The certificate will be actively promoted via all academic promotional catalogs and brochures within the College of Liberal Arts, and on the CLLA and AFST websites.

Any Texas A & M University graduate student enrolled in a masters or doctoral program may apply for a Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies. To be eligible to pursue the certificate, a student must meet the following additional conditions:

- The student must be in good academic standing.
- The student must submit all the application materials listed under “How to Apply.”
- The student must have her or his pursuit of the certificate approved by the Director of Africana Studies after review of all the application materials.

E. **Library** – Provide the library director’s assessment of library resources necessary for the program. Describe plans to build the library holdings to support the program.

N/A

F. **Facilities and Equipment** – Describe the availability and adequacy of facilities and equipment to support the program. Describe plans for facility and equipment improvements/additions.

N/A

G. **Accreditation** – If the discipline has a national accrediting body, describe plans to obtain accreditation or provide a rationale for not pursuing accreditation.

Updated 06.07.2010
10 of 17 DD
N/A

H. **Evaluation** – Describe the evaluation process that will be used to assess the quality and effectiveness of the new degree program.

The PICA Evaluation System will be used.

**III. Costs and Funding**

**Five-Year Costs and Funding Sources** - Use this table to show five-year costs and sources of funding for the program.

All courses are already reflected in the graduate catalog; resources are in place and no additional budget is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five-Year Costs</th>
<th>Five-Year Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel(^1)</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities and Equipment</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library, Supplies, and Materials</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other(^2)</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Report costs for new faculty hires, graduate assistants, and technical support personnel. For new faculty, prorate individual salaries as a percentage of the time assigned to the program. If existing faculty will contribute to program, include costs necessary to maintain existing programs (e.g., cost of adjunct to cover courses previously taught by faculty who would teach in new program).
2. Specify other costs here (e.g., administrative costs, travel).
3. Indicate formula funding for students new to the institution because of the program; formula funding should be included only for years three through five of the program and should reflect enrollment projections for years three through five.
4. Report other sources of funding here. In-hand grants, "likely" future grants, and designated tuition and fees can be included.
Signature Page

1. **Adequacy of Funding** – The chief executive officer shall sign the following statement:

   *I certify that the institution has adequate funds to cover the costs of the new program. Furthermore, the new program will not reduce the effectiveness or quality of existing programs at the institution.*

   ________________  ________________
   Chief Executive Officer                  Date

2. **Board of Regents or Designee Approval** – A member of the Board of Regents or designee shall sign the following statement:

   *On behalf of the Board of Regents, I approve the program.*

   ________________  ________________
   Board of Regents (Designee)                  Date of Approval

3. **Board of Regents Certification of Criteria for Commissioner of Assistant Commissioner Approval** – For a program to be approved by the Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research, the Board of Regents or designee must certify that the new program meets the eight criteria under TAC Section 5.50 (b): The criteria stipulate that the program shall:

   (1) be within the institution’s current Table of Programs;
   (2) have a curriculum, faculty, resources, support services, and other components of a degree program that are comparable to those of high quality programs in the same or similar disciplines at other institutions;
   (3) have sufficient clinical or in-service sites, if applicable, to support the program;
   (4) be consistent with the standards of the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and, if applicable, with the standards or discipline-specific accrediting agencies and licensing agencies;
   (5) attract students on a long-term basis and produce graduates who would have opportunities for employment; or the program is appropriate for the development of a well-rounded array of basic baccalaureate degree programs at the institution;
   (6) not unnecessarily duplicate existing programs at other institutions;
   (7) not be dependent on future Special Item funding
   (8) have new five-year costs that would not exceed $2 million.

   *On behalf of the Board of Regents, I certify that the new program meets the criteria specified under TAC Section 5.50 (b).*

   ________________  ________________
   Board of Regents (Designee)                  Date
MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Brown, Director
    Interdisciplinary Program in Africana Studies

FROM: M. Jimmie Killingsworth

SUBJECT: Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies

I am writing to give my unqualified endorsement for the proposal to create a graduate certificate in Africana Studies. Many of our students are already doing research on related topics—such as African American literature and rhetoric, critical race studies, comparative border studies, and global literatures in English—and would enthusiastically welcome the chance at certification. The program also works well with a key research initiative in our department at the moment: English without Borders. Finally, we have a number of associated faculty in English and Africana Studies who would benefit from greater participation of graduate students that could result from having the certificate.

Let me know what else I can do to advance the proposal. For now, please accept my strong encouragement and complete endorsement.

pc: Pamela Matthews, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts
August 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Brown  
    Director of Africana Studies

FROM: Walter L. Buenger  
       Professor & Head of Department

SUBJECT: Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies

You have my unqualified endorsement for your proposal to create a graduate certificate in Africana Studies. Some of our graduate students are conducting research on related topics in African American history and the history of the African diaspora, and this should encourage others to follow the same path. It also fits nicely with our emphasis on Comparative Borders on the graduate level. We have several faculty associated with your program, and this will encourage even further collaboration. Again you have the complete endorsement of the Department of History. Let me know if you need further assistance.

xc: Pamela Matthews
MEMORANDUM

Date: 26 August 2009

To: Dr. Kimberly Brown, Director
Africana Studies Program

From: Daniel Conway, Professor and Head
Department of Philosophy

Re: Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies

I wish to register my enthusiastic support for the proposed graduate certificate in Africana Studies. The approval of this proposal would not only provide the Africana Studies Program with the enhanced visibility it deserves, but also complement graduate degree programs throughout the College of Liberal Arts. MA and PhD students in Philosophy stand to benefit enormously from the approval of this proposal. Our Department has embarked recently on an ambitious plan to incorporate the study of African-American Philosophy and Critical Race Studies into our degree program curricula. The opportunity to pursue a graduate certificate in Africana Studies would enable our graduate students to receive the kind of education in African-American Philosophy and Critical Race Theory that is available only at a handful of universities in North America. Needless to say, the approval of this proposal would also provide our faculty with the opportunity to develop new courses and cultivate important new areas of research specialization.

The Department of Philosophy remains firmly committed to the continued growth and expansion of the Africana Studies Program. The approval of the proposed graduate certificate would be an unqualified boon to our faculty members and students. Please let me know if there is anything more that I might do to support this proposal or the Africana Studies Program in general.

cc: Pamela Matthews, Associate Dean
College of Liberal Arts
MEMORANDUM

Date: October 2, 2009
To: Kimberly Brown, Director, Interdisciplinary Program in Africana Studies
From: Mark Fossett, Head, Sociology
Regarding: Support for Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies

I am writing to state my enthusiastic support for the proposal to create a graduate certificate in Africana Studies. The area of racial and ethnic relations is a crucial concentration area in the sociology graduate program. It has the largest number of doctoral students of any of our concentration areas and it also is the area with largest number of faculty conducting research and contributing graduate seminars. I am certain that many of our students in this area will take advantage of the opportunity to receive certification for supporting graduate coursework in Africana Studies. They will benefit from the valuable content of the courses. In addition the certificate documenting that our students have taken a structured program of study in the area will enhance their marketability when they graduate from our program. I am pleased to endorse the proposed certificate program. Let me know if there is anything else I can do to support the proposal.
-----Original Message-----
From: James R. Rogers [mailto:ROGERS@politics.tamu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, December 02, 2010 10:08 AM
To: Brown, Kimberly
Subject: RE: AFST Grad. Certificate

Hi Kimberly,

I have heard back from a number of faculty members - and POLS supports the certificate proposal enthusiastically.

One suggestion that I did receive from several faculty members is that POLS 660 should be included as an additional POLS course that counts toward the certificate. This is the Department's Gateway Seminar in Race and Politics.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Best,

-- Jim

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