

att. IX

CHE  
3/5/2005  
Agenda Item 4.02A.9

**New Program Proposal  
Ph.D. in Anthropology  
USC-Columbia**

**Summary**

USC-Columbia requests approval to offer a program leading to the Ph.D. degree in Anthropology to be implemented in Fall 2005. In the Southeastern region of the country, only this proposed Ph.D. and the one at the University of Florida will have coverage in all four major subspecializations of the discipline of anthropology (i.e., cultural anthropology, historical archeology, linguistics, and biological/physical anthropology).

The proposal was submitted for Commission review on August 2, 2004. The proposal was reviewed with considerable comment by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on September 30, 2004. USC's Board of Trustees approved the proposal on October 22, 2004.

As required by all institutions seeking approval for a doctoral program, to evaluate the proposed program USC-Columbia employed the services of an external consultant; that report was appended to the program proposal. The report confirmed the need for the program and a high likelihood that the program would meet CHE productivity requirements for doctoral programs.

Despite the generally positive assessment provided by the consultant, the report contained a few important cautionary caveats. The three most serious of these were as follows: 1) the need to address the state of disrepair of the facilities in which the department is located; 2) a necessary increase in the number of full-time, tenure-track faculty if a Ph.D. is to be successful and meet a high standard of quality; and 3) a critique of adequate "coverage" of proposed specializations in the Ph.D. At the meeting of the Advisory Committee, the representative from the University was asked about these critical comments and responded that they had been addressed by the University already. Additional responses were received in writing by the staff from University representatives between November 2004 and January 2005.

In summary, these written responses indicate that: 1) tenure-track faculty positions have risen from 13 to 15, increasing expertise in cultural anthropology and medical anthropology; 2) significant repairs have been made to Hamilton College, where the department is housed, so that it is now "adequate" although "systemic" repairs are desirable in the future; and 3) professional cooperation

between the Department of Anthropology and the South Carolina Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) has become stronger since 2000. The SCIAA cooperation has resulted in an estimated addition of one FTE faculty per year. A total of eight SCIAA archeological anthropologists have contributed to the department's master's program in recent years, as follows: six serving on eight MA theses committees; three teaching courses in the department on a regular basis; and three MA students per year receiving graduate assistantships on SCIAA projects.

All three of these changes are in line with the recommendations of the external consultant. The combination of expanded contacts and cooperation with SCIAA and the addition of new grant-funded research faculty positions, together with the two new tenure-track faculty lines, will substantially strengthen the department's ability to implement a Ph.D. program of quality while maintaining solid undergraduate and master's-level offerings.

The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates with the research skills and knowledge bases suitable for employment in both traditional academic employment positions and in positions outside academia. Such positions outside academic institutions are anticipated—as has been the case historically with students graduating from the master's program—in such diverse areas as archaeological resource management, historic preservation, health services, forensics, and cultural competence training. On the basis of past performance, the departmental faculty is confident of the ability of Ph.D. graduates to receive adequate gainful employment upon completion of the degree, in either the private or public sector.

The proposed Ph.D. program will build upon a strong master's program that is recognized regionally for its strengths in two subfields of anthropology, i.e., historical archeology and culture and communication. The Ph.D. program will be especially strong in these same two subfields, around which it will develop themes of globalization, the diasporas of peoples (especially African-American and Latino populations in America), and issues of health inequalities. Although it is expected to be especially strong in historical archeology and culture and communication, the program will also cover the other two major subfields of anthropology, i.e., linguistics and biological/physical anthropology.

The program's implementation will fill a void in South Carolina's higher education programming. No other Ph.D. degree program in Anthropology exists in the state. Currently, except for West Virginia and Mississippi, all other southeastern states have at least one Ph.D. in Anthropology program; five states have two each (Virginia, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia); and one (Florida) has three.

The need for the program is based upon the emerging need to prepare people who have the skills to interpret to larger audiences the artifacts and culture constructs of unique importance in other cultural traditions, to work with and complement the strengths of other graduate degree programs offered at the University (especially African-American Studies and Women's Studies), and to provide data and interpretive resource bases to the state in subfields of particular importance to address societal needs of contemporary population groups. Thus, in the latter connection, public health and Latino migration will also be subfields of teaching and research interest in this program.

The curriculum will consist of a minimum of 62 semester hours for students entering the program who have already completed their master's degree in Anthropology at USC-Columbia. Students who have completed their master's degrees at institutions other than USC must be able to show that they possess the same skills and knowledge bases as the USC master's-prepared students, before they can be admitted to the program.

In keeping with the consultant's recommendations and according to the proposal, a total of two new faculty members will be added to the tenure-track faculty for the new program by Fall 2005. According to information supplied in January 2005, these two positions are joint appointments with School of Public Health and the Institute for Southern Studies; half the time of these two faculty members will be in the Anthropology program. The total costs to the University for these two faculty members will be \$119,700 per year, of which half (\$59,850) can be ascribed to anthropology.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at four headcount students (4 FTE) in FY 2005 and increase to 20 headcount students (16 FTE) in FY 2009. According to data supplied by the University, the University is committed to funding 16 graduate assistantships in the program per year. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards.

In keeping with the recommendations of the consultant, the Department will limit enrollment in the M.A. program to a very small number (N=3), while developing the Ph.D. student enrollment. Those entering the M.A. program will be accepted into the track in public archaeology, in order to meet the employment needs of SCIAA. SCIAA will also provide a certain level of funding for the students in the M.A. program. This action to limit M.A. enrollment in favor of admitting graduate students overwhelmingly to the Ph.D. program will mean that the M.A. program will probably not meet the Commission's statewide program productivity standards. However, the University will need to continue the M.A.

program to meet the needs of the state through the SCIAA and as an exit option for students who have entered, but choose not to complete, the Ph.D. program.

No specialized accreditation or certification exists for this program. Members of the faculty are professionally involved in both regional and national professional organizations and have been serving on several Ph.D. committees at other institutions in the country because of their particular areas of expertise.

There are no immediate physical plant requirements for the proposed program, although in due time the Department is interested in systemic repairs to the current building. Equipment costs are estimated at \$55,000 for the first five years.

The appropriate bibliographical staff at Thomas Cooper Library did a study of the proposed program's needs in relationship to the Library's current holdings and concluded that the Thomas Cooper Library is currently well stocked with anthropological works necessary for the degree. The University's continued commitment to making the Thomas Cooper Library a regional resource of academic excellence, coupled with the advent of the Collegiate DISCUS's new multiple databases, will make this repository an important element for assuring the proposed program's quality. The Department acknowledges that the importance of the contribution of the new Collegiate DISCUS statewide databases to the proposed program's academic quality. The proposal calls for two new anthropological journals to be added to the collection, which annually will account for an expenditure of \$400.

USC-Columbia's Department of Anthropology belongs to the American Anthropological Association. This professional association is currently developing a project known as "AnthroSource" which will result in having all the anthropological journals used for undergraduate and graduate programs available as full-text on-line. In addition to the resources of the Thomas Cooper Library and AnthroSource, students in the proposed program will have use of the SCIAA library's extensive, 25,000 volume archeological collection.

New costs for the program are estimated by the institution to begin at \$34,900 in year one and include library journals, equipment, student fieldwork/training, travel, and speakers. Estimated costs are to increase to \$107,900 by year five and include graduate assistants, library, equipment, student field travel/training, travel, and speakers. The University did not calculate any new costs for new faculty members in its original budget projections contained in the proposal. However, in later correspondence, the University's representatives indicated that a University total of \$119,700 was attributable to the salaries and fringe benefits of the two new faculty lines to be used in the program. However,

since both of these faculty lines are joint appointments with other schools/colleges of the University, only one-half of this total (i.e., \$59,850) is attributable to the Department of Anthropology as a new cost. The total estimated for new costs (exclusive of new faculty salaries) is \$359,900 for the first five years of the program's operations. Including the 50% of new faculty salaries and fringe benefits, the total of new costs for the first five-year period attributable to the Department of Anthropology is estimated at \$419,750.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the Mission Resource Requirement and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
2005-06	\$166,260		\$166,260	\$0	\$53,493	\$53,493
2006-07	\$332,520		\$332,520	\$39,013	\$106,986	\$145,999
2007-08	\$498,780		\$498,780	\$78,026	\$159,676	\$237,702
2008-09	\$581,910		\$581,910	\$118,011	\$186,824	\$304,835
2009-10	\$637,330		\$637,330	\$137,031	\$204,149	\$341,180

These data demonstrate that if the new program meets its enrollment projections and contains costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the fifth year of its implementation. Nevertheless, the institution is committed to the program as an addition to its academic program inventory which will provide important value-added for addressing the state's needs as an increasingly culturally diversified community.

In summary, USC-Columbia proposes to offer a program leading to the Ph.D. degree in Anthropology which will be unique in South Carolina. The program will be one of only two in the Southeastern region of the United States at the doctoral level to offer a program with expertise in all four principal subfields of the discipline. This degree will allow students to develop the necessary skills and knowledge bases to become gainfully employed in suitable professional positions in both the private and public sectors, within and outside academic institutions. The program is designed to produce graduates who will meet the needs of academic institutions, policy offices, public and private research institutes, and governmental service organizations. In an era of globalization in

trade and great interchanges and migrations of human populations, anthropological skills and knowledge bases become increasingly important for the society, the economy, and public health, as well as the academy.

**Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve the program leading to the Ph.D. degree in Anthropology, to be implemented in Fall 2005, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.