Departmental and Program Assessment Annual Assessment Plan Report

| Academic Year: | 2008-2009 |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Academic Unit: | American Studies program |
| Chair: <u>Anne</u> | Goldberg |

Assessment Plan

Is there an assessment plan for your department, program, or general education component? (It should be on the web at http://www.hendrix.edu/academics/academics.aspx?id=7264.
If not, provide a timeline that will produce a plan by the end of the next academic year.)

There is no assessment plan. I will create one by December 2009 in consultation with the associated program faculty. Because the chair position transferred to me in fall 2008, I have been communicating with the past chair, Alex Vernon, about programmatic needs, of which this is one.

- Does the assessment plan include stated student learning goals? (Goals should be able to stand alone as a list without pages of explanatory commentary. If not, provide a timeline that will produce goals by the end of the next academic year.)
- Does the assessment plan include a list of assessment data that are collected each year? (Assessment data lists should be able to stand alone as a list without pages of explanatory commentary. If not, provide a timeline that will produce a list by the end of the next academic year. You do *not* need to submit any of your data, but it should be on file in your department.)
- Has your department or program done an assessment audit of your courses to determine how course goals match overall student learning goals? (This has not been required of departments, but it is a recommended exercise. If you have done this, please report the results.)
- Are student learning goals available to students? Are student learning goals included in course syllabi?

There are only two American Studies courses, both taught by Ralph McKenna. I will find out whether he lists learning goals on his syllabi.

Student Assessments

• Describe which *direct* assessments in your assessment plan have been collected for the year and which have not. ["Direct" refers to evaluated student work.]

In the past, senior theses have been collected and reviewed by at least two faculty members. There were no graduating seniors this year, though we will have four next year.

• Describe which indirect assessments in your assessment plan have been collected for the year and which have not. ["Indirect" refers to student surveys or opinions.]

During the spring program meeting, we assessed the success of the required linked courses. I made notes about options for keeping or transforming the link requirement and distributed them to the associated faculty via e-mail.

Assessment Planning

 How is information about student learning shared and used for department, program, or general education component decision making? (Each unit is to have discussions of at least two hours each academic year to discuss assessment. If you have met, briefly summarize the meeting. If you have not met, when do you plan to meet?)

We met for over an hour in April 2009 to assess various aspects of the program. We will reconvene in the fall. We also communicate about the program regularly via e-mail, because our departmental obligations make scheduling a meeting time quite challenging.

• Describe any curricular or other programmatic changes that have been made that were based (at least in part) on the availability of your assessment data.

None have been made, but we are considering changing the curriculum to streamline it and perhaps create an alternative to the link requirement.

- Describe any changes in the Assessment Plan that have been made during this academic year. (If changes have been made, please submit an electronic copy of the revised plan to Amanda Hurd.)
- What are the plans for improving student learning in your unit?
- Report on this year's action item for your unit.
- Define at least one action item for your unit that will be a goal of your assessment discussions next year.

We intend to create an assessment plan that will reflect what was learned during the 2007-2008 external review. We may also choose to revise the curriculum to include more course options.