April 18, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: James F. Harris
Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Phyllis Peres
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to establish a Minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies (PCC log no 07052)

Today the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses unanimously approved your proposal to establish a Minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The Minor is effective Spring, 2008. The College should ensure that the changes are fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc: Carmen Balthrop, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Laura Slavin, University Senate
    Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Denise Nadasen, Institutional Research & Planning
    Anne Turkos, Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Scott Wolpert, Undergraduate Studies
    Elizabeth Bergmann Loizeaux, College of Arts and Humanities
    Ruth Zambrana, Women’s Studies
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED 12/7/2007

PCC LOG NO. 07052

COLLEGE/SCHOOL: Arts & Humanities

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM: U.S. Latina/o Studies Minor (USLT)

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD XX__ DELETE_____ CHANGE_____

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)


JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

Start up funds are being provided by the Provost's Office

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date
1. Department Committee Chair Laura Nichols 12/6/07
2. Department Chair Bonnie T. Dill 12/6/07
3. College/School PCC Chair T. Moore 3/24/08
4. Dean Elizabeth B. Loney 3/8/08
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
6. Chair, Senate PCC
7. Chair of Senate
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost W. Turley 4/18/08
Introduction

The proposed Minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies (USLT) at the University of Maryland is the result of students, faculty, and staff working together over the past decade to fulfill the University’s mission and commitment to diversity and academic excellence. The USLT program seeks to offer an intellectually rigorous curriculum, centering on the ways that Latinas/os have contributed to the State of Maryland and the United States as a whole. The first of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic region, the Program not only fills an academic void in the region, but also enhances the academic profile of the University of Maryland among its peer institutions across the nation and responds to a significant gap in its diversity goals.

I. Description

The Minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies will provide students with the opportunity to study critically the broad range of experiences of Latinas/os in the United States. The Minor will address issues pertaining to historically recognized U.S. Latina/o subgroups, among them Mexican Americans/Chicanos, Puerto Ricans/Nuyoricans, and Cuban Americans, as well as distinct local and regional communities such as Salvadoran Americans, Guatemalan Americans, Colombian Americans, Afro Latinas/os, and others. Through an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach drawing from various comparative critical frameworks, students will examine the histories, communities, and cultures of Latinas/os both as distinctive group formations as well as interconnected with the broader themes of diversity, ethnicity, race, class, gender, sexuality, and immigration in the U.S. The interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary minor will prepare students to understand recent demographic and cultural transformations of Latino populations in local, regional, and national contexts.

The Minor, which requires a total of 15 credits, is intended for students who wish to develop a specialization in U.S. Latina/o Studies alongside their degree pursuits. It is optimal for students engaged in work with U.S. Latina/o communities in a variety of professions and academic fields including history, literature, education, urban studies and planning, health care, social services, business, government, public policy, among others.

II. Requirements

A. Two Lower-Level Courses (6 credits)
All students are required to take the two foundational courses: USLT 201/U.S. Latina/o Studies I: An Historical Overview to 1960s; and USLT 202/US. Latina/o Studies II: A Contemporary Overview, 1960s-Present.

These courses engage students with the disciplines, debates, and methods that constitute the field of U.S. Latina/o Studies. Students acquire an historical understanding of why various Latina/o peoples immigrated to the United States, how those already living within the geopolitical borders of the United States adjusted to (neo)colonization, how Latina/o immigrants and their descendants have been treated in American history, and how they have responded to such treatments. This approach is not merely additive, but potentially transformative in the manner in which it expands the boundaries and revises the conceptualization of United States history.

**USLT 201:** An Historical Overview to 1960s - is an interdisciplinary course in which students learn about the history of Latinos/as in the U.S., about how Latinos/as construct “Latinidades,” that is, Latino/a identities in the United States, and about current issues in Latino/a Studies. The course begins with a general examination of terminology associated with various Latino subgroups, including Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, Dominicans, and Central Americans. Through readings of poems, short stories, autobiographical narratives, novels, and other materials, students will explore the history and cultural expressions of these groups. Attention will be paid to U.S. Latina/o cultural expressive practices such as music (e.g., corridos, salsa, spoken word, etc.) and visual images in art, video, film, and photography, among other things. Students will be expected to engage critically and creatively with the materials of this course. At the end of the semester, students will produce an individual project on an aspect of Latina/os in the U.S. and/or the Greater Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area that pertains to the history of that community before 1960. They will present their findings in panel format during the last weeks of classes. (Currently at the campus VPAC)

**USLT 202:** A Contemporary Overview: 1960s-Present is an interdisciplinary course on emerging populations of Latinos beginning in the 20th Century U.S. with a focus on the multiple waves of Latino immigration as a result of colonialism, imperialism, globalization, and community-based social movements. It examines the positioning of immigrant waves in the political, socio-cultural and historical contexts of U.S. Latinidades. Apart from providing students with grounding in the historical knowledge of a particular people, place, and time, this 200-level course will help students develop certain skills including the ability to critically analyze the writings and arguments of historians, social scientists, and other interdisciplinary scholars. Discussions, lectures, and writing assignments are designed with these goals in mind. At the end of the semester, students will produce an individual project on any aspect of Latinos/as in the U.S. and/or the Greater Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. They will present their findings in panel format during the last weeks of classes. Ultimately, this course is about how Latinos/as construct Latinidades, that is, Latino/a identities in the geo-political borders of the United States. (Currently at the campus VPAC)

**B. One Upper-Level Course (3 credits)**

All students are required to take the upper-level course: **USLT 488/ Senior Seminar in U.S. Latina/o Studies.** This variable topics seminar exposes students to interdisciplinary critical readings, writing, and research in U.S. Latina/o Studies. This course broadly addresses
interdisciplinary research methodologies. Students will gain skills and practice in reading critical analytic texts and will develop writing skills. Students will work closely with the instructor and the McKeldin Library Subject Area Specialist in U.S. Latina/o Studies. Topics for the course might include: The Mestizo Metropolis: Latinas/os and the American City; U.S. Latina/o Urbanism and Gentrification; Chicana/Chicano Literature; and U.S. Latina/o Civil Rights Movements. (Currently at the College PCC)

C. Two Upper Level Elective Courses (6 credits)

In addition to the three required foundational courses, students will select two elective courses in consultation with the USLT advisor, one from each of two of the following categories: Humanities; Social Sciences; Languages; and Education.

For these electives, students can choose USLT 498/Special Topics in U.S. Latina/o Studies and from a list of pre-approved courses offered through other departments or programs. Elective courses will explore the historical, cultural, political, economic, and sociological dimensions of U.S. Latina/o experiences. These courses will be approved by the faculty advisory committee. (See below for partial listing of courses. See attached prerequisites for these courses).

Additional courses that include comparative U.S. Latino content, such as in LASC or GVPT, would be eligible for inclusion in the minor with the approval of the USLT advisor. Several departments have agreed to cross-list elective courses with USLT as appropriate. We have included letters of support from 10 departments. Each semester, in advance of pre-registration, the USLT advisor will circulate a list of courses with US Latino content for the next semester.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL379 Chicano/Latino Literature</td>
<td>ANTH468C Special Topics in Cultural Anthropology: Ethnology of Immigrant Life</td>
<td>SPAN223 United States Latino Culture</td>
<td>EDCP312 Multi-Ethnic Peer Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL428 US Latina/o Novels</td>
<td>ANTH688Y Current Developments in Anthropology: Contemporary Issues in Latin America</td>
<td>SPAN224 Violence and Resistance in Americas</td>
<td>EDCP418C Special Topics in Leadership: Latino Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST319F/ Latinos and Cities in the Americas, 1940-1990</td>
<td>GEOG410 Washington D.C.: Past and Present</td>
<td>SPAN408 Great Themes of the Hispanic Literatures</td>
<td>EDCP420 Advanced Topics in Human Diversity and Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST319I/ Latinos in American Film, 1950-1980</td>
<td>SOC424 Sociology of Race Relations</td>
<td>SPAN422 Cross-Cultural Communication</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST319Q/ Comparative 20th Century Race Relations</td>
<td>THET470 United States Latino Literature</td>
<td>SPAN450 The Hispanic Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST419Z/ Immigration and Ethnicity</td>
<td>THET489B From Boycotts to Broadway: Contemporary Latino/a Performance in America</td>
<td>SPAN470 United States Latino Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST488B/Senior Seminar: Lives of Immigrant Women</td>
<td>WMST498A/ Latino Women and Families</td>
<td>SPAN471 United States Latino Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMST498A/ Latino Women and Families</td>
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<td>SPAN472 Latino American Perspectives on the United States</td>
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<td>SPAN473 U.S. Latino Performance</td>
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<td>SPAN478 Special Topics in United States Latino Cultures</td>
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</table>

III. Demand, Recruitment, Four-year Plans and Resources

USLT 201 and 202 were offered during fall ’07 and spring ’08 and were fully enrolled. We anticipate that the courses will be fully enrolled in the future. Students are requesting these courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

At steady state, the program will have 40 students.
Eligibility and Application Process

In order to apply for the minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies, students must have
1. Completed at least 30 credit hours prior to application to the program
2. Completed USLT 201 or 202 with a C (2.0) or better
3. Met application deadlines. Applications will be accepted beginning on Oct. 1 and March 1 for admission in the subsequent semester. The first 20 qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis each semester. Complete applications must be submitted to the USLT Program Director.
4. Been admitted into the Minor prior to the completion of the final 9 credits of Minor coursework.

The U.S. Latina/o Studies Minor can be a flexible complement to a student’s four year course of study. Because we are seeking CORE approval for USLT201 and USLT202, students will be able to fulfill two requirements while the senior seminar, USLT488, will allow students to fulfill their advanced CORE requirement. With a commitment to offer all three foundational courses for the minor every year, students will find great flexibility in completing these courses. The two elective courses required for the minor could also help a student complete his/her advanced CORE or credit at the upper level requirement by the colleges. For example, students pursuing the minor and majoring in Economics can take one elective course per semester after the first semester providing sufficient time to complete the minor. Student pursuing the USLT minor and majoring in Spanish and Portuguese can count USLT201 and USLT202 for the minor and for CORE. The two USLT electives can count toward the supporting area for the major.

Funding for the Minor will be provided by the Provost’s office.

IV. Oversight and Record Keeping

The College of Arts and Humanities will serve as the administrative/academic unit with responsibility for the U.S. Latina/o Studies minor until a permanent home in an academic unit is determined. A faculty member will serve as the program coordinator and will assure that students are properly advised and records are appropriately processed and kept confidential. (See Minor Advising Work Sheet attached).

Advising duties will include:

- Informing students about the minor.
- Collecting applications twice a year and informing students of their admission to the program.
- Advising students of minor requirements.
- Ensuring consistency and compliance of the minor with University requirements.
- Keeping and maintaining the Minor Advising Worksheet.
- Processing paperwork required for the minor and updating student records through the Student Information System (SIS).

- Issuing final program approval to confirm completion of requirements. This includes forwarding of information about completed minor requirements (transcript, Minor Advising Form, etc.) to the Office of the Dean of the college in which the student is majoring and to the Dean of the College in which the Program is housed through the SIS.

V. Restrictions

- A student may use a maximum of six credits (or two courses) to satisfy the requirements of both a major and a minor. Courses completed in one minor may not be used to satisfy the requirements in another minor.

- No more than six of the required credits (or two courses) may be taken at an institution other than the University of Maryland, College Park. However, at least six upper division credits applied to the minor must be taken at this university.

- No courses with an earned grade below “C” (2.0) may count towards a minor.
# U.S. Latina/o Studies Prerequisites of Selected Course Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANTH468Y</strong> Current Developments in Anthropology: Contemporary Issues in Latin American Society and Culture</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDCP312</strong> Multi-Ethnic Peer Counseling</td>
<td>Undergraduate Status, Sophomore Standing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EDCP418C</strong> Special Topics in Leadership: Latino Leadership</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDCP420</strong> Advanced Topics in Human Diversity and Advocacy</td>
<td>Permission of Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENGL428C</strong> US Latina/o Novels (1950-Present)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GEOG410</strong> Washington D.C.: Past and Present</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIST319F</strong> Latinos and Cities in the America’s, 1940-1990</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIST319I</strong> Latinos in American Film, 1950-1980</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIST408V</strong> Immigration and Ethnicity (Formerly HIST419Z)</td>
<td>Permission of Department</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOC424</strong> Sociology of Race Relations</td>
<td>Six credits of Sociology Credits or Permission of the Sociology Department</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOC441</strong> Social Stratification and Inequality</td>
<td>Six credits of Sociology Credits or Permission of the Sociology Department, Junior Standing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPAN408I</strong> Great Themes of the Hispanic Literatures; 19th Century Latin American Literature: Beyond Faith</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPAN408K</strong> Great Themes of the Hispanic Literatures; The Promised Land: 20th Century Latin American Poetry</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPAN422</strong> Cross-Cultural Communication</td>
<td><strong>SPAN315</strong> and Junior Standing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THET489B</strong> From Boycotts to Broadway; Contemporary Latino – A Performance in America</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WMST348I</strong> Literary Works by Women: Immigrant Women’s Experiences</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WMST488B or WMST698B</strong> Senior Seminar: Lives of Immigrant Women</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies
University of Maryland, College Park

ADVISING WORKSHEET

Date:

Name of Student: _________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

Student UID Number: ______________________ Major: ______________

Telephone: ____________________________ Email: _______________________

Estimated Date of Graduation: ____________________________________________

Courses completed for the Minor:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required (9 credits)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USLT 201</td>
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<tr>
<td>USLT 202</td>
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<tr>
<td>USLT 488</td>
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</table>

Electives (6 upper-level credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USLT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This student has completed the requirements for a minor in U.S. Latina/o Studies

Name of Minor Faculty Advisor: _____________________________________________

Signature of Major Department Advisor ______________________ Date

Signature of USLT Program Director ______________________ Date
November 16, 2007

Dr. Ruth E. Zambrana  
Interim Director, US Latino Studies Initiative  
Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity  
1208 Cole Student Activities Building  
Campus

Dear Ruth,

I enthusiastically support a minor in US Latino Studies. I believe that such a program is an important addition to our curricular offerings and would significantly contribute to expanding the diversity objectives at UM. We have multiple courses offerings that are interdisciplinary, comparative and include content on US Latinos. These courses are consistent with the learning objectives of the minor.

We would be pleased to work with you to cross-list courses that can enhance the elective options for the minor and we welcome the opportunity to discuss new courses that would include curriculum content on US Latinos.

We are pleased to support a program that promises to be academically rigorous and path-breaking in its ability to teach and develop scholarship on a significant racial/ethnic population in the U.S. and in communities adjacent to the UM campus.

Sincerely,

Bonnie T. Dill  
Chair and Professor  
Department of Women’s Studies
December 3, 2007

Dr. Ruth E. Zambrana
Interim Director, US Latino Studies Initiative
Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity
1208 Cole Student Activities Building
Campus

Dear Dr. Zambrana,

I enthusiastically support a minor in US Latino Studies. I believe that such a program is an important addition to our curricular offerings and would significantly contribute to expanding objectives to diversify education at the University of Maryland. We have multiple courses offerings that are interdisciplinary, comparative and include content on US Latinos. For instance, we are offering a special topics course this winter: AASP: 498K titled "Othering the Joke: The Resistant Comedy of Marginalized Women," which includes a number of Latina comic performers. Courses such as these are consistent with the learning objectives of this minor.

We would be pleased to work with you to cross-list courses that can enhance the elective options for the minor and we welcome the opportunity to discuss new courses that would include curriculum content on Latinos/as in the US.

We are pleased to support a program that promises to be academically rigorous and path-breaking in its ability to teach and develop scholarship on a significant racial/ethnic population in the US as well as in communities adjacent to the UM campus.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hartley
Chair and Associate Professor
December 3, 2007

Dr. Ruth Enid Zambrana  
Interim Director, US Latino Studies Initiative  
Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity  
1208 Cole Student Activities Building  
Campus

Dear Ruth,

The Geography Department enthusiastically supports a minor in US Latino Studies. I believe that such a program is an important addition to our curricular offerings and would significantly contribute to expanding the diversity objectives at UM. We have multiple courses offerings that are interdisciplinary, comparative and include content on US Latinos. These courses are consistent with the learning objectives of the minor.

We would be pleased to work with you to cross-list courses that can enhance the elective options for the minor and we welcome the opportunity to discuss new courses that would include curriculum content on US Latinos.

We are pleased to support a program that promises to be academically rigorous and path-breaking in its ability to teach and develop scholarship on a significant racial/ethnic population in the US., and in communities adjacent to the UM campus.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Cirrincione  
Associate Chairperson  
Geography Department
4 December 2007

Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
1119 Main Administration Building
University of Maryland, College Park

Dear Vice President Peres:

As Chair of the Department of Anthropology, I would like to extend our support to the proposal for the U.S. Latina/o Studies Minor submitted by faculty and staff of the U.S. Latina/o Studies Program. The minor will enable University of Maryland students to study a detailed academic curriculum about the U.S. Latina/o experience, in addition to pursuing a degree in their major field of study. Students interested in U.S. Latina/o issues can complete the requirements with 12 credits while selecting from a wide range of inter- and multidisciplinary courses, including U.S. Latina/o history, gender, ethnicity, literature, leadership, and popular culture. Students pursuing the minor are also required to complete an Interdisciplinary Research Methods course which engages students with U.S. Latina/o communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Prince George’s County and the greater Washington, DC area.

As a discipline, anthropology is dedicated to encouraging a broader understanding of diversity in the United States. I believe the minor will serve an important role in not only inspiring continued academic inquiry into U.S. Latina/o experiences, but also for developing student understanding and appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity of our country and local region. Students will gain this broader perspective of social relations in the U.S. by providing knowledge on and insights into an often neglected U.S. Latina/o community. I am confident that this important endeavor will result in discipline expertise, intellectual growth, and intercultural learning and communication, as already demonstrated by the scholarly activities sponsored by the Program and proposed minor.

I strongly support the proposal for the U.S. Latina/o Studies Minor. Please contact me if I could provide any further support for this proposal and any future endeavors put forward by the Program Faculty.

Sincerely yours,

Erve Chambers
Professor and Chair
Department of Anthropology
December 6, 2007
Interim Director, US Latino Studies Initiative
Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity
1208 Cole Student Activities Building
Campus

Dear Ruth,

I am very pleased to support a minor in US Latino Studies. The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers several courses that include content on US Latinos and can successfully contribute to achieve that goal.

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese will continue to offer our regular courses with US Latino related topics and we will be happy to work with you to cross-list courses that can enhance the elective options for the minor. I see this option as an ideal solution to maintain our faculty experts in US Latino in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and, at the same time, to give them the opportunity to share their expertise with the prospective US Latino Studies Center.

Sincerely,

Carmen Benito-Vessels, Chair
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
December 6, 2007

Professor Ruth Zambrana  
Interim Director, US Latino Studies Initiative  
Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity  
1208 Cole Student Activities Building  
Campus

Dear Ruth,

I enthusiastically support a minor in US Latino Studies. Given the growth of the Latino population in the U.S. and the complexity of the issues that surround this important population group, I believe that such a program is an important addition to our curricular offerings. It would significantly contribute to expanding the diversity objectives at UM. We have courses on race, ethnicity and gender that already include content on US Latinos and that content could be expanded. These courses are consistent with the learning objectives of the minor.

We would be pleased to work with you to cross-list courses that can enhance the elective options for the minor and we welcome the opportunity to discuss new courses that would include curriculum content on US Latinos.

We are pleased to support a program that promises to be academically rigorous and path-breaking in its ability to teach and develop scholarship on a significant racial/ethnic population in the US and in communities adjacent to the UM campus. Over time, I think many potential benefits would could come from collaboration between a US Latino Studies program and the Sociology Department.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Professor and Chair
Subject: US Latino Studies
From: Kent Cartwright <kcartwri@umd.edu>
Date: Thu, 6 Dec 2007 16:47:01 -0500
To: rzambran@umd.edu
CC: Kent Cartwright <kcartwri@umd.edu>

Dear Ruth:

I am writing to state my support for a campus minor in US Latino Studies. Our campus offerings and our faculty resources in this area have been growing, such that they now seem able to support such a minor. A program of this sort would fill a void in the general area of ethnic and cultural studies, and I am sure that it would find a receptive audience on campus.

Kent

Kent Cartwright
Professor and Chair
Department of English
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-2315
Ph. 301-405-3807
kcartwri@umd.edu
February 28, 2008

Dr. Ruth E. Zambrana
U.S. Latina/o Studies Initiative (USLT)
at the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity (CRGE)
University of Maryland
1208 Cole Student Activities Building
College Park, MD 20742

RE: Letter of Support for the Establishment of the U.S. Latino Studies Program (USLT) and the Passage of the U.S. Latino Studies Minor

Dear Ruth:

The Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland at College Park is very proud to support the U.S. Latina/o Studies Initiative to establish the U.S. Latino Studies Program and to support the passage of the U.S. Latino Studies Minor. Both of these initiatives are timely and important to the University of Maryland and to our student body. Moreover, these initiatives enhance our research and knowledge base about the fast-growing and significant Latina/o communities of the greater mid-Atlantic region.

The Asian American Studies Program (AAST) was started between 1992 and 1995 as a series of initiatives by both faculty and by students who were interested in promoting the study of Asian Americans. By 1996, the Certificate of Asian American Studies was started and by 2001, we hired our first two faculty members, Professors Lisa Mar (History/AAST) and Dae Young Kim (Sociology/AAST). In 2006, I was selected as the first full-time permanent Director of the Program. In Spring 2007, the Asian American Studies Minor was approved by our university. Currently we have over 50 students in our minor program. In the next year, we will be submitting a major proposal due to high demand by our students and justified by the subject matter and high enrollment of all of our classes (every one of our courses have waiting lists).

I bring this history to emphasize that both of our programs were started to enhance the mission of our university as a land grant institution that serves a broad and diverse constituency. As the flagship university of a large public system of higher education, we both have a strong need to focus upon the intellectual and public policy/service activities related to Asian American and Latina/o issues. Since both of these communities have been long neglected by mainstream
institutions, including our own campus, it is heartwarming to know that attention is now being borne upon the establishment of the U.S. Latino Studies Program and the passage of the U.S. Latino Studies Minor.

Your mission, as stated by your proposal, is meritorious and noteworthy. Focusing upon providing a pedagogy, research and public service platform that assures the visibility of U.S. Latina/o experiences on campus and in the region and state, you will provide to our student body and university community new opportunities to understand one of the fastest growing immigrant populations in the United States.

With large Latino communities in Langley Park, Silver Spring, and Wheaton, there is a great need to understand the acculturation and circumstances of this large Maryland constituency. It is a surprise to me that our campus has not established a concentrated focus of scholarship, community service, research, and teaching before about this set of communities — with the Latina/o communities now surpassing in size the African American communities, it is now imperative that we study and teach about their experiences. In addition, there are opportunities for comparative research and scholarship that compares the experiences of U.S. Latina/os with that of Asian Pacific Americans and other “new immigrants.”

Your proposed 15-credit U.S. Latina/o Studies Minor (USLT) fills this need and will promote our understanding of this set of communities through rigorous academic scholarship and pedagogy, as exampled by your state-of-the-art curriculum. Like the Asian Pacific American communities, the Latina/o communities are diverse, with a wide range of ethnic groups such as Mexican Americans/Mexicanos/Chicanos, Puerto Ricans/Nuyoricans, Cubanos/Cuban Americans, Salvadoran Americans, Guatemalan Americans, Columbian Americans, Dominican Americans, Afro-Caribbean Americans, to name a few. Your careful attention to setting the experiences as one shaped by U.S. relationships with Latina/os as well as your intention to analysis diversity, ethnicity, race, class, gender, sexuality, and immigration is warranted given the 21st century concerns about globalization, the new economies, and the changing political landscapes that accommodate to these trends. Since the United States remains the sole superpower with inordinate effects upon culture, economy, and polity globally, the focus on U.S. Latino Studies is justifiable from our perspective.

Moreover, our campus is in great need to understand that there is a difference between the experiences of Latina/os in the United States and that of Latin Americans. Thus, while a Center for Latin American Studies makes intellectual sense, such a center does not supplant nor does it fulfill the need for a legitimate and concerted study of the experiences of Latina/os in the United States.

In closing, on behalf of the Asian American Studies community of scholars, faculty, staff, and students, I am much honored to support the formal establishment of your Program and Minor.
Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance. I can be reached by email at lshinaga@umd.edu or by phone at 301-405-0879.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Larry Hajime Shinagawa, Ph.D.
Director and Associate Professor
Asian American Studies Program
10 December 2007

Dr. Ruth E. Zambrana  
Interim Director, US Latino Studies Initiative  
Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity  
1208 Cole Student Activities Building  
Campus

Dear Ruth:

I enthusiastically support a minor in US Latino Studies. I believe that such a program is an important addition to our curricular offerings and would significantly contribute to expanding the diversity objectives at UM. We have multiple courses offerings that are interdisciplinary, comparative, and include content on US Latinos. These courses are consistent with the learning objectives of the minor.

We in American Studies would be pleased to work with you to cross-list courses that can enhance the elective options for the minor, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss new courses that would include curriculum content on US Latinos. As I have already indicated, we currently include content about Latinos/a in numerous AMST courses now.

We are pleased to support this new program that promises to be academically rigorous and path-breaking in its ability to teach and develop scholarship about this large and significant racial/ethnic population in the US, including communities adjacent to the UM campus.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Struna  
Professor & Chair
December 4, 2007

Dr. Ruth Enid Zambrana
Professor, Department of Women’s Studies
Director, Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity,
Interim Director of US Latina/o Studies Program
2101 Woods Hall
University of Maryland

Dear Dr. Zambrana:

Thank you for your request for a letter of support for the proposed minor in Latina/o Studies.

I am pleased to confirm that the Department of History is willing to make the appropriate courses it offers eligible to be cross listed for qualifying electives in the Latina/o Studies program. We regularly offer courses in the History of Immigration, Ethnicity, and Race Relations in the United States. In the past we have also offered some special topic courses that would be of particular interest to students with a minor in Latina/o Studies. We would be prepared to consider those courses also for cross listing.

Such matters are handled in this Department by the Associate Chair, currently Professor Ridgway.

Please note that not all the courses so offered would be appropriate for cross listing with your program. Our 408 courses, in particular, are special topic courses that are reserved for our majors as they are capstone courses in which the students are expected to have extensive knowledge of history.

Sincerely yours,

Richard N. Price
Professor and Chair

Cc: Whit Ridgway, Associate Chair
December 3, 2007
Interim Director, US Latino Studies Initiative
Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity
1208 Cole Student Activities Building
Campus

Dear Ruth,

I enthusiastically support a minor in US Latino Studies. I believe that such a program is an important addition to our curricular offerings and would significantly contribute to expanding the diversity objectives at UM.

We would be pleased to work with you to cross-list courses that can enhance the elective options for the minor and we welcome the opportunity to discuss new courses that would include curriculum content on US Latinos.

We are pleased to support a program that promises to be academically rigorous and path-breaking in its ability to teach and develop scholarship on a significant racial/ethnic population in the US. and in communities adjacent to the UM campus.

Sincerely,

Daniel MacLean Wagner
Professor and Chair
Department of Theatre
Acting Chair
Department of Dance