

Date: December 18, 2008

To:

Roberta Ferguson, Registrar

Christine Lewis, Librarian

David Pittenger, Dean, COLA

Del Chrol, Chair, COLA Curriculum Committee

Brian Morgan, Chair, University Curriculum Committee

Cam Brammer, Chair, Faculty Senate

Frances Hensley, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Anders Linde-Laursen, Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Concerning: the approval of a major in sociology

Background:

The existing undergraduate program in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology suffers from structural contradictions. A lot of these issues have been dealt with through other requested curricular actions: the extensive updating of the numbering of ANT courses, the addition of a Junior Seminar (ANT/SOC 391) with a focus on professional preparation, the addition of an anthropology major, and the deletion of existing areas of emphasis in the sociology program.

However, one issue remains that, while it might be regarded as a technicality, needs to be addressed: the department does not have a major in sociology! This, indeed, has been a surprise to many in the department and administration. The reason this has not been addressed earlier is that the structure of the undergraduate program 'hides' this lack of a formally approved major. I think it can reasonably be described in these terms: by default, students registering as sociology majors have been enrolled directly in the sociology degree program, not in a major. On the one hand, this has, in the undergraduate catalog and in advising, been described as if students enroll in an area of emphasis called 'general sociology'. However, such a 'general sociology' area of emphasis is not part of the approved curriculum. On the other hand, this has, in the registrar's office, been dealt with by enrolling students in the degree program known in Banner as LS 10 – Sociology, which technically 'looks like' a major, but has never been approved as such.

I readily admit this looks confusing; which in my eyes is a very good reason for passing the problem to history by adding a major in sociology to the undergraduate program!

Proposal: as a corrective measure, the department requests **the addition of a major in sociology**.

We suggest adding the major now to eliminate any confusion and establish a clear and strong curricular structure in the department. Relative to the existing requirements in the catalog, we suggest few changes: adding a 3 credit Junior Seminar (SOC 391) and, consequently, extend the program from 36 to 39 credits. Furthermore, we suggest

extending the minor from 12 to 15 credits and adding a core to the minor as described in the attached proposal for a catalog text.