November 25, 2013

Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate

Subject: Establishment of new Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights

Dear Professor Nachtergaele,

The faculty of the departments of Religious Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, Sociology, History and Philosophy have proposed establishing an Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights. In accordance with the provisions of PPM 200-20, the proposal has been reviewed by Dean Jessie Ann Owens—Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, who has expressed support for the proposed action.

After careful review, including discussion with Dean Owens regarding the support needs for the unit, the College of Letters and Science Executive Committee has recommended approval of the proposal to establish the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I am hereby forwarding the proposal to you for review and action by the Davis Division.

Sincerely,

Phillip Shaver, Chair
Executive Committee
College of Letters and Science

cc: B. Floyd, Director
Undergraduate Education and Advising
College of Letters & Science
May 20, 2013

Professor Julia Simon,
Chair, College Letters & Sciences Executive Committee

Establishment of the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies

Following the procedure as outlined in the PPM 200:20 Campus Organization and Management: “Establishment and Revision of Academic Units,” faculty associated with the UC Davis Human Rights Initiative and drawn from the Departments of Religious Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, Sociology, History and Philosophy, and with the support of the university’s academic leadership, seek to establish an Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies. (IDP-HMR)

Through the multidisciplinary work of the UC Davis Human Rights Initiative, the creation of the Interdisciplinary Minor in Human Rights and the establishment of the Designated Emphasis in Human Rights Studies, UC Davis has emerged as a leader in undergraduate Human Rights education, graduate training in Human Rights Studies and faculty research in the various fields and disciplines relevant Human Rights.

The last decade has seen the exponential growth of Human Rights course offerings, degree programs and research units throughout the American academy.

Moreover, UC Davis is one of the few universities in which faculty collaboration and teaching programs bring humanities and social science methods and theories to the study of Human Rights core concepts of human dignity, shared humanity, equality, diversity, pluralism and inclusion, as well as the institutional and ideological frames and conditions in which Human Rights are violated, protected, and promoted.

Nevertheless, while the study of Human Rights is a new field, it is one that allows students and scholars to examine enduring and important questions about memory, suffering, the destruction of entire peoples and cultures, injustice, hate, intolerance and power and powerlessness in ways that transcend established disciplines and traditional area studies approaches.

The very nature of Human Rights demands an interdisciplinary approach to their study. The creation of an interdepartmental program is key to UC Davis’ continued leadership in this field.

Keith David Watenpaugh
Associate Professor
Director, Human Rights Initiative and Minor Program in Human Rights
Proposal for the Establishment of the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies

Policy and Procedure Manual: Chapter 200, Campus organization and management
Section 20, Establishment or Revision of Academic Units

Introduction

See cover letter.

1. Justification

Three main reasons:

A. Over the last half decade, Human Rights Studies (HMR) has become a center of excellence for undergraduate teaching, graduate training and faculty research at UC Davis; faculty have identified program formation as the next step in the further development of the study of Human Rights on campus. This will ensure that students have the best possible access to opportunities for course work and research in this field.

The establishment of the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies is the natural next step following the formation of the Undergraduate Human Rights Minor and the graduate DE in Human Rights Studies. It will allow for the better management and coordination of interdisciplinary and discipline-based Human Rights Studies core and related courses; it will help make opportunities to pursue the study of, and research on Human Rights more legible to the undergraduate population.

B. Human Rights Studies is a well-established interdisciplinary field, with programs in many major universities and colleges in the United States; major journals; and Human Rights issues and questions form the bases for official sub-committees or groups within national and international scholarly associations

There are Human Rights Studies Programs at many major American universities and colleges, including Columbia University and the University of Connecticut. Even more universities, including UC Berkeley and UC San Diego offer undergraduate minors in Human Rights Studies. Several Human Rights academic journals exist including: The Journal of Human Rights; Human Rights Quarterly and Humanity; further, there are Human Rights sections of the International Studies Association and the American Sociological Association as well as the Committee for Human Rights of the American Anthropological Association.
C. Faculty, graduate students and undergraduates affiliated with aspects of the UC Davis Human Rights Initiative, including the Interdisciplinary Minor in Human Rights, the Designated Emphasis in Human Rights and the University of California-wide Human Rights Collaboration constitute a vital intellectual and scholarly community that will be served by the creation of this program.

There is a critical mass of Academic Senate and Federation faculty who have exhibited a commitment to Human Rights Studies through their work with the Human Rights Initiative, the Human Rights Minor, the DE in Human Rights Studies and the UC Human Rights Collaboration. This faculty commitment is in part driven by the tremendous student interest in the field of Human Rights Studies. Many of these students engage in the study of Human Rights as preparation for careers or advanced study in diverse fields including, of course law, but also social services, international development and government service.

2. Statement of Objectives and Assessment

The Objectives of the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies

Human Rights Studies is a dynamic field whose own self-definition has evolved significantly over the last few decades. Once mostly limited to the work of international lawyers and diplomatic historians, the questions and ideas explored in Human Rights Studies cross social history, development and humanitarian studies, area, cultural, ethnic and queer studies and art and literature. Human Rights Studies builds from the multidisciplinary research challenge posed by the idea that everyone possesses Human Rights as a consequence of their humanity. Human Rights Studies describes, compares, interprets, explains, criticizes and historicizes Human Rights in a systematic, multidisciplinary, international and intercultural way. The objectives of the program follow. They are divided among program objectives, general education courses, and minor requirements.

Undergraduate Program Objectives:

- Offer general education courses that develop skills in analysis, synthesis, creativity, and critical thinking practiced in speech, reading, and writing;

- Develop minor-supporting and graduate courses that have specific outcomes in knowledge and in cognitive skills such as analysis, synthesis, creativity, and critical thinking;

- Through the study of Human Rights, develop an international and multicultural perspective in students and thus provide the context for analyzing and thinking about the protection, promotion and violation of Human Rights.
General Education courses:

- By offering an exciting curriculum that challenges conventional cultural and political boundaries, develop a critical perspective that lays the groundwork for lifelong learning and intellectual curiosity;
- Through the study of Human Rights in a global context, develop speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing skills;
- Develop analytical and synthetic skills in speech, reading, and writing about Human Rights;
- Provide the intellectual grounding for an international and multicultural outlook, through the study of Human Rights across time and space;
- By offering a carefully sequenced series of courses, develop a historical consciousness of evolution and change in students.

Interdisciplinary Minor in Human Rights Studies objectives:

- Provide students knowledge of Human Rights, broadly conceived;
- Provide intensive practice in analytical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing about Human Rights;
- Develop analytical and synthetic skills and competency in the theoretical and historical study of Human Rights;
- Develop the intellectual skills to compare and contrast various forms of criticism of Human Rights;

Assessment:

- Undergraduate:
  The growth in the number of minors
  Successful progress in terms of time through the undergraduate program
  Prizes won by undergraduate students
  Undergraduate participation in study abroad opportunities with a high Human Rights component
  Number of students advancing to graduate study or professional schools with Fellowships.
  Student evaluations
  Participation in undergraduate research conference
Participation in the undergraduate Human Rights journal

- Faculty:
  - Faculty publications, Grants, and Awards (in teaching, scholarship, and service)
  - Range of courses taught by faculty (across the curriculum: upper division and graduate)
  - SCH performance of faculty
  - Successful innovations in teaching, curriculum, and research

3. Impact on Other units

By emphasizing the Interdisciplinary Minor in Human Rights Studies, the IDP-HMR seeks to support and add value to existing disciplinary and interdisciplinary major programs.

Owing to our undergraduate requirements and the inherent nature of Human Rights Studies as a field, Human Rights students take courses offered by other departments and programs. Faculty teaching undergraduate Human Rights courses regularly teach undergraduate and graduate courses in which students from other departments and from throughout HArCS and Social Sciences participate, in particular area and ethnic studies, history and international relations. The Human Rights Initiative jointly sponsors lectures, workshops, and conferences with other departments, institutes and programs. This will continue and expand with the advent of the IDP-HMR

4. Delegation of Authority and Responsibilities

A program director, usually on a three to five-year rotation, will have primary responsibility for running the new program, as specified in the Academic Personnel Manual, the Policy and Procedure Manual, and related University and campus documents. He/she will be assisted by an undergraduate adviser, and a TA supervisor, also normally on three-year assignments, as is typical in most departments and programs. These positions are sufficient to handle the administrative tasks of a unit of this size. The director of the program will set the schedule of courses for both undergraduate and graduate offerings, and in the case of cross-listed courses work with cosponsoring departments or programs. Likewise, the director (in consultation with the faculty, the graduate advisor, and the TA supervisor) will assign the faculty and graduate student TAs to courses. In addition to administering the program, it is assumed that in general the program director will also serve as chair of the Designated Emphasis in Human Rights Studies.

5. Administrative Overlap with other Units

None
6. Five-Year Projection of Costs

Recognizing that the current funding model is in flux, the IDP-HR will be funded in ways similar to other existing HArCS interdepartmental programs.

a. Current physical facilities (office space and classrooms) are sufficient at this time, however a shared space for seminars and collaborative research would be useful.

b. The program currently has existing faculty already employed with the University.

c. The UCD Library at Shields is sufficient to accommodate this program.

d. The current HARCS IET support is sufficient to accommodate this program.

7. Method of Consultation with Students and faculty

This proposal has been submitted to the ad hoc Program Committee for discussion and review. The result is a document that reflects collegial discussion and revision of earlier drafts.

Appendix A: Human Rights Studies Organizational Chart

Appendix B: Letters of Support from Departments and Programs with major faculty involvement in the Interdepartmental Program

1. Religious Studies
2. Spanish and Portuguese
3. History
4. Sociology
5. Philosophy
6. Hemispheric Institute of the Americas
7. Jewish Studies Program

Appendix D: Letters of Support from Campus Academic Leadership

1. Letter of support from HArCS Dean, Jessie Ann Owens
2. Letter of support from Interim Director, Davis Humanities Institute, Seeta Chaganti
3. Letter of support from Interim Vice Provost – Undergraduate Education, Carolyn de la Pena
4. Letter of support from Vice Provost – International and Overseas Programs, William Lacy
Organizational Chart – Human Rights Studies IDP

Dean HArCS

Program Director - IDP

Undergraduate Advisor

TAs, Readers as needed
To: L&S Executive Committee  
Re: Letter of Support for the Establishment of the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies

May 15, 2013

On May 6, 2013 faculty of the UC Davis Department of Religious Studies met and voted unanimously to support the formation of the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies. (IDP-HMR)

Currently, Religious Studies is the administrative home for the successful Interdisciplinary Minor in Human Rights. Its Senate and Federation faculty are responsible for much of the minor’s course offerings and the advising and support of undergraduate Human Rights Minors. The department has also been a contributing sponsor of many of the programs of the UC Davis Human Rights Initiative.

During its May 6, faculty meeting the department approved a three-point resolution in support of the IDP-HMR.

The Department of Religious Studies:

1) Supports the formation of the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies;

2) Agrees to transfer the management of the Interdisciplinary Minor in Human Rights Studies to the IDP-HMR upon its establishment;

3) Will work with academic leadership to ensure the proper staffing and administrative support for the new program in a way that is fair to all faculty and units concerned.

The faculty believes strongly that formation of this program makes sense from the perspective of current student needs and interests, but it is also part of helping UC Davis make critical contribution to fulfilling the mission of the public land grant university in the 21st Century.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Catherine M. Chin  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Religious Studies
May 14, 2013

Professor Keith Watenpaugh
Director, Human Rights Initiative

Dear Keith,

I’m writing to confirm the strong support of the History Department for the creation of a Program in Human Rights at UC Davis. There are a number of faculty in the department whose work is directly related to this important subject and who will no doubt wish to be active in the program, teaching courses and/or serving on the Program’s Steering Committee. The Department will therefore extend as much support as it is able to furthering this laudable initiative.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Chair, Department of History
May 15, 2013

Professor Keith Watenpaugh Director, Human Rights Initiative

Dear Keith,

I’m writing to confirm the strong support of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese for the creation of a Program in Human Rights at UC Davis. There are a number of faculty in the department whose work is directly related to this important subject and who will no doubt wish to be active in the program, teaching courses and/or serving on the Program’s Steering Committee. The Department will therefore extend as much support as it is able to furthering this laudable initiative.

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia Colombi, Chair
May 19, 2013

Professor Keith Watenpaugh
Director, Human Rights Initiative

Dear Keith,

I’m writing to confirm the strong support of the Sociology Department for the creation of a Program in Human Rights at UC Davis. There are several colleagues in the department whose work is directly related to this important subject and who will no doubt wish to be active in the program, teaching courses and/or serving on the Program’s Steering Committee. We also have graduate students who will likely want to become involved as well. We would like to extend our support, therefore, to developing this timely and important program.

Sincerely yours,

Bill

Dr. Bill McCarthy
Professor and Chair
bdmccarthy@ucdavis.edu
Professor Keith Watenpaugh  
Director, Human Rights Initiative

Dear Keith,

The Department of Philosophy has voted unanimously to support the creation of a Program in Human Rights at UC Davis. We understand that this Program would include a minor in Human Rights and we support the creation of this minor. To be specific, the Department voted in favor of the following two propositions:

a) that the Department supports the establishment of the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies and

b) that the Department is willing to work with the program and academic leadership to ensure proper staffing and support in ways that are fair to all units and individual faculty concerned.

There are a number of faculty in the department whose work is directly related to this topic including at least Professor Marina Oshana, Professor Roberta Millstein, and myself. I have done research in the area and I hope to teach courses in the area once I am finished chairing the Department. Others in the Department might also like to teach courses. I would be willing as well to serve on the Program’s Steering Committee at some point.

The Department will therefore support this initiative to the extent that we are able, given our unfortunately limited resources.

Yours sincerely,

David Copp  
Professor, Chair
May 2013

Professor Keith Watenpaugh
Director, Human Rights Initiative

Dear Keith:

I write to confirm the Hemispheric Institute on the America’s support for the creation of a program in Human Rights at UC Davis. Many of our core faculty look forward to participating in the project and to serving on the Steering Committee. In fact, our steering committee, listed below, expressed their unanimous and deep support for the program.

Marisol de la Cadena  Anthropology
Pablo Ortiz  Music
Victoria Langland  History
Robert Irwin  Spanish and Portuguese
Robert Newcomb  Spanish and Portuguese
Luis Guarnizo  Human and Community Development
Miroslava Chávez-Garcia  Chicana/o Studies

Please let me know if there is anything else HIA can do for the program. On a personal note, I am excited about collaborating.

Best Wishes,

Chuck Walker

Charles Walker
Professor of History and Director of HIA
4-9453
May 16, 2013

Professor Keith Watenpaugh
Director, Human Rights Initiative

Dear Keith,

This letter is to confirm the unanimous support of the Jewish Studies Program for the creation of a Program in Human Rights at UC Davis. Several of our core faculty are actively engaged in research in this area. We have co-sponsored a number of programs, including several major conferences. I expect that this cooperation will grow in the future both in terms of teaching courses and/or serving on the Program’s Steering Committee. The program is pleased to offer our full support for what we are sure will be an important addition to UC Davis and the entire UC system.

Sincerely yours,

Naomi Janowitz
Director, Jewish Studies
May 15, 2013

Keith David Watenpaugh
Associate Professor
902 Sproul Hall
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Prof. Watenpaugh,

I am writing this letter of support for the proposed Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies. We have witnessed the growth and expansion of work in the field of human rights at UC Davis and across the UCs with the establishment of the Human Rights Initiative in 2011-2012 and the UC Multi-Campus Research Group on Human Rights in 2012-2013. Your leadership in attracting resources and organizing campus-based programming has been instrumental in raising the profile of human rights studies on this campus and beyond.

As an early partner in your endeavor, we at the Humanities Institute could not be more pleased with the trajectory of your ongoing collaboration that enlists the humanities as a lens to "Re-envision the human" in the study of human rights. An Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies would serve a critical role in continuing this collaboration and insuring that faculty and graduate student research finds its way into the classroom.

Please let me know if there is anything else the Humanities Institute can do to support your ongoing work.

Sincerely,

Seeta Chaganti
Associate Professor of English
Interim Director
To the Executive Committee:

I write in support of the Proposal to Establish the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies.

Since its establishment in Fall 2011, the minor in Human Rights has given highly motivated undergraduates from several departments an opportunity for interdisciplinary study and dedicated mentorship in an area of global significance.

Evidence of the minor’s success can be seen in growing student participation in the Undergraduate Research Conference. In 2012, for the first time, a full panel of oral presentations was dedicated to human rights research. Six undergraduates in the minor program presented on topics from Kristallnacht to Australian genocide denial to the International Criminal Court. Participation continued at this this year’s conference, with presentations addressing immigration reform and universal standards for reparations.

Another significant development for undergraduates is the emergence of a new publishing opportunity in Making the Case: Human Rights Journal at UC Davis. Combining academic research, journalism, and creative works, the student-edited journal exposes undergraduates from a variety of departments to an important aspect of academic life.

The proposed program is in keeping with UC Davis’s goals of research, teaching and service, the Vision of Excellence, and our rapidly growing international profile. Building on the success of the minor, the major will likely attract strong students and provide a distinctive interdisciplinary education that helps them better understand and improve our world.

Sincerely,

Carolyn de la Peña
Interim Vice Provost – Undergraduate Education
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR KEITH WATENPAUGH  
Modern Islam, Human Rights & Peace and UC Davis Human Rights Initiative

RE: The Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies

Dear Keith:

I am pleased to learn of your initiative to establish the Interdepartmental Program in Human Rights Studies. I am strongly supportive of this effort to develop the human rights program which should contribute to the broader campus goal of internationalizing the curriculum.

Addressing issues of human rights knows no national boundaries and has become an increasingly important global priority. Such a program should appeal to both domestic students as well as international students and provide a forum for examining human rights issues worldwide. Equally important is the scholarship which can provide the foundation for a better understanding of the causes, consequences and possible cures and policy strategies for human rights violations.

I wish you success in establishing this important program.

Best regards,

[Signature]

William B. Lacy
Vice Provost – University Outreach and International Programs

/sel