Minutes taken by Mónica Díaz

Faculty members present: Cristina Alcalde, Rusty Barrett, Felipe Benguria, Renee Bonzani, Francie Chassen-Lopez, Jacqueline Couti, Carlos de la Torre, Scott Hutson, Matt Losada, Carmen Martínez-Novo, Tad Mutersbaugh, Chris Pool.

1. The meeting began at 1:10 pm. While faculty members in attendance were having lunch, Mónica Díaz gave an overview of the budget for next year, talked about the plan to apply to the UISFL grant and explained what was needed from the affiliated faculty in terms of collaborative projects.

2. Faculty members introduced themselves and briefly talked about their research interests and current projects:

Matt Losada: Hispanic Studies. Film studies; research: Argentine cinema, marginal space 1910-present.
Carmen Martínez-Novo: Anthropology; indigenous peoples in LA, indigenismo politics in Ecuador.
Tad Mutersbaugh: Geography: organic agriculture production in Oaxaca. Summer program: social justice.
Carlos de la Torre: Sociology. Director of International Studies; book on comparison of presidents, Correa, Chavez and Morales.
Scott Hutson: Anthropology. Archeology in the Maya region of Yucatan and Central America; ancient towns process of integration.
Francie Chassen-Lopez: past director of LAS and past chair of History. Mexico 19c., some 20th century. Book on Mexican woman from Oaxaca; gender and war. Teach Modern Mexico, women and gender in LA. Board of FLACA, Latino festival, support workshops for Latino youth.
Cristina Alcalde: Women and Gender studies. Gender, gender violence, Latinos in the US, masculinities, transnational lives and return migration to Peru. Universidad Católica, agreement that we can all use, exchange of faculty members.
3. Faculty discussed possible service projects, and collaborative teaching. Francie Chassen said that volunteers are needed at the Village Library; Jackie Garrido is the connection. Discussions about the possibility to follow the model of social theory to team-teach. Cristina Alcalde suggested starting with the “Diversity fund” to team-teach. When talking about the need to increase offerings in Brazilian studies and Portuguese language, Cristina Alcalde suggested we looked at agreements already in place with Brazil’s institutions. We also talked about the possibility of employing Brazilian graduate students from other Departments as TA’s, or to bring an exchange professor to teach language and culture. We also discussed the need to establish connections with Department of Agriculture.

4. Discussion of ideas to put together a proposal for the Gaines center on Violence and the Human Condition. Mónica Díaz distributes a hand out with the ideas that Cristina Alcalde, and Steve Alvarez had proposed. Scott Hutson and Carmen Martínez provided input about who else to invite for panel that can discuss violence in different regions of Latin America, covering various time periods. Francie Chassen talks about Diane Khalo, one of the proposed invitees.

5. The faculty discussed the model we wanted to follow for affiliated faculty presentations. We decided on two presentations per semester, one will be a work-in-progress with two discussants, the other one a panel of two or three presenters, of presentations of research.

6. We will decide on thematic lecture or seminar series for the months of September and October every year as part of Latino Heritage month. Some faculty expressed concerns about the appropriateness to celebrate Columbus Day, which marks the end of Hispanic Heritage Month.

7. Affiliate faculty will nominate and self-nominate to form part of the steering committee that will rotate every year and will aid the director in making decisions. The steering committee will also be in charge, together with the director, in choosing the recipients of the travel grants, and the TA for LAS 201.

8. It was decided that we would meet at least twice every semester. The next meeting will take place in January.

9. Faculty members filled out a form to let the director know when they teach and have committee responsibilities to aid in the scheduling of meeting for the spring.