SUBJECT: New Degree Proposal: Master of Arts (M.A.) in History

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve new M.A. in History.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FGCU is requesting permission to offer a M.A. in History as described in the Executive Summary.

Supporting Documentation Included: (1) Memo from Provost, and (2) Executive Summary of Degree Program

Prepared by: Director of Program Development and Curriculum Cathy Duff

Legal Review by: N/A

Submitted by: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Bonnie Yegidis
March 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Larry Hart, Chair
    Academic/Student/Faculty Affairs Committee
    FGCU Board of Trustees

FROM: Bonnie L. Yegidis
      Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Master of Arts (M.A.) in History

The College of Arts and Sciences is proposing the addition of a M.A. in History. The proposed program builds upon the existing strengths of the college and the B.A. History program. The proposed program is designed to meet the needs of two constituencies. The first constituency consists of students who seek professional careers in history through employment in cultural organizations such as museums or in colleges and universities. Individuals in this category may seek the Ph.D. The second group consists of current and prospective grade 5-12 school teachers who seek to further their careers, enhance their knowledge in specific content areas, and meet continuing education requirements.

The M.A. in History will be 36 semester credit hours in length. It is consistent with the criteria for new degree authorization adopted by the Board of Governors on April 30, 2003. The proposed program has been approved by both the college curriculum team and the university-wide Graduate Curriculum Team.

Implementation of the M.A. in History program will provide Southwest Florida with a high quality program that is consistent with the university’s mission. I recommend approval.
Degree: Master of Arts (M.A.)
Major: History
Concentrations: None
College: Arts and Sciences
Department: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Anticipated Implementation Date: Fall 2007
Suggested CIP: 54.0101

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The proposed Master of Arts (M.A.) in History is designed to meet the needs of two constituencies. The first constituency is comprised of students who seek professional careers in history or who intend to pursue a Ph.D. in history. The thesis option is designed to meet their needs. It is expected that graduates in this category will seek employment in colleges and universities, museums, and other cultural organizations.

The second constituency is comprised of current or prospective grade 5-12 school teachers who are expected to enroll in the program to further their careers by earning an advanced degree or satisfying continuing education requirements. The non-thesis option was designed to meet their needs. These students will enroll in courses with content consistent with the Sunshine State curriculum including U.S., Florida, and World history.

There are no concentrations in this program; however, students will select either a thesis or non-thesis option and coursework appropriate to career and professional aspirations. Both options require:

- 36 semester credit hours of coursework
- Completion of HIS 6061 Historiography (3 credit hours)
- Successful completion and defense of a comprehensive examination
- Coursework appropriate to career and professional aspirations from the following fields: (a) US History to 1877, (b) US History since 1877, (c) Public/State and Local History, and (d) World History.

CONSISTENCY WITH FGCU MISSION AND STRATEGIC PLAN

The M.A. in History will contribute to the following State University System Strategic Planning Goals:

I.A.2. Access to and production of master’s degrees--
No master’s level history program is available to students residing in Southwest Florida.

I.D. Meeting community needs and fulfilling unique institutional responsibilities--
The M.A. in History is part of the FGCU Strategic Plan for 2005-2010, p. 25. [http://www.fgcu.edu/planning/strategicplanning/newplan/detailbysub.asp?recnum=17](http://www.fgcu.edu/planning/strategicplanning/newplan/detailbysub.asp?recnum=17) Strategic Directive 2: The Student Community (Goal 5 Educational Programs): Indicator 5.1 "Increase number of degree programs in accordance with institutional enrollment plan and BOG plan and extend University outreach in the region."

Through its curriculum, internships, and rigorous academic and intellectual standards, the M.A. in History will assist FGCU in pursuing academic excellence, promoting environmental sustainability, embracing diversity, nurturing community partnerships, valuing public service, encouraging civic responsibility, cultivating habits of lifelong learning, and keeping the advancement of knowledge and pursuit of truth as noble ideals at the heart of the university’s purpose. The university currently has a B.A. History program and the M.A. in History is a natural extension.

NEED AND DEMAND FOR THE PROGRAM

There is currently a shortage of K-16 teachers in Florida. (See St. Petersburg Times "State: Wanted: 30,000 Teachers" [http://www.sptimes.com/2005/02/16/State/Wanted__30_000_teache.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2005/02/16/State/Wanted__30_000_teache.shtml)) The M.A. in History degree will help counter this shortage by providing coursework in history that will help potential teachers gain subject area competency. Graduates will find employment in the K-16 education system (including Edison College and FGCU) as well as local private sector cultural agencies (historical societies and museums) and the public sector (historical sites, museums, and libraries). The proposed program has received support from local public school officials.

In Fall 2006, students in 3000-4000 level History course were surveyed to determine their interest in taking graduate history courses or enrolling in a M.A. in History program. Thirty-four (34) of the 79 students surveyed (43%) indicated an interest. Numerous current and prospective students have also inquired about the possibility of enrolling in a graduate level history program. Further, 30 Collier County School District teachers have indicated that they would take graduate History courses or enroll in the History program.
ANTICIPATED ENROLLMENT

Projected enrollment for the M.A. in History program is summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Based on survey data and requests for information by potential students, it is expected that few graduate students will change from their existing programs to History. Most of the students enrolling in the History M.A. will either be recent graduates of FGCU or professionals (for example, teachers) in the community.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

The proposed faculty participation plan is based on conservative estimates. The proposal requests one faculty line in Year 1 (2007-08), another in Year 2 (2008-09), and a third in Year 3 (2009-10). It is likely the program will receive additional lines in the future; however, these lines are not included in the plan. Adjunct graduate faculty are not included in the plan in order to demonstrate that the number of fulltime faculty is adequate and that adjunct faculty will not be necessary. Faculty will supervise thesis and independent study hours as uncompensated overloads. The plan also reflects that Eric Strahorn is currently chair of the department of social and behavioral sciences and thus will be on a 12 month contract in year one, but will not be chair in year five and will be on a standard 9 month contract. The department is also requesting five graduate assistantships ($15,000 total) in Year 1 with additional graduate assistantships and teaching assistantships in subsequent years.

Overall, the library collection is adequate to initiate the M.A. in History; however, funds for monographs and journals are also being requested in years 2-5: Year 2: $2,500; Year 3: $5,000; Year 4: $10,000; and Year 5: $15,000. Library personnel have also suggested that two additional databases be added in the future in order to provide students with the latest materials.

History faculty have researched the availability of resources outside of the university and the History Program will actively seek outside funding from sources like the National Endowment for the Humanities, but this money will not be available for regular operating expenses. In addition, History faculty will work with the FGCU Foundation to raise money for student scholarships and fellowships, and for library resources.