To: Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum  
From: Nia Georges, Chair, Department of Anthropology  
Re: Proposed Departmental Minor in Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology proposes that a departmental minor in anthropology be added to the undergraduate curriculum, to begin in the 2010-11 academic year. The proposed minor in anthropology will provide students who have an interest in anthropology, but for whom another major is more suitable, with a broad overview of the discipline and its core theories and methodologies.

The anthropology minor will consist of six courses in two categories:

- an introductory course in two of the four subfields of the discipline. This requirement will ensure that students minoring in anthropology gain a broad overview of the discipline, its subject matter, and the methodologies it uses to study human societies.

- four other ANTH courses, three of which must be at the 300 level or above. This requirement will ensure that students progress toward a mastery of the central concepts and theories of anthropological knowledge, past and present.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

We expect that students minoring in anthropology will:

- gain a broad and substantive overview of the discipline of anthropology and its characteristic methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of human societies;

- become familiar with anthropological modes of cultural criticism and their relevance to ethnographic and/or archaeological research;

- develop skills in critical analysis and writing.

The proposed program is designed to achieve these SLOs. The requirement that students complete introductory-level courses in two of the four traditional subfields of anthropology will provide students with a broad overview of the discipline, its central questions, and its characteristic methodological approaches. In particular, through this
requirement, students will be introduced to the central anthropological concept of culture and its critiques and how these relate to ethnographic, linguistic, and archaeological knowledge.

The requirement that students successfully complete four elective courses, three of which must be at the 300 level or above, will provide students with the flexibility necessary to craft an individualized program of study commensurate with their interests, while ensuring that they develop a deeper, more critical understanding of the core concepts and methods of contemporary anthropology. All advanced anthropology courses are writing-intensive and thus contribute to our third learning outcome, the development of critical writing skills.

Assessment Plan:

We plan to assess the success and effectiveness of the program through a brief open-ended questionnaire distributed to graduating students with minors in anthropology asking for their assessment of their learning experience. We will circulate the responses to this questionnaire among the faculty and adjust the minor program as necessary, and we will keep these records in order to track our progress over time. The same faculty committee tasked with developing questions for exit interviews with graduating majors will develop the questionnaire for minors.

Language for General Announcements:

A minor in anthropology requires the successful completion of six courses:

- any two of the following:
  - ANTH 200 Introduction to the Scientific Study of Language
  - ANTH 201 Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology
  - ANTH 203 Human Antiquity
  - ANTH 205 Introduction to Archaeology

- four other ANTH courses, three of which must be at the 300 level or above