Institution Submitting Request: University of Utah
Proposed Title: Center for Latin American Studies
Currently Approved Title: Latin American Studies Program
School or Division or Location: University of Utah, College of Humanities
Department(s) or Area(s) Location: N/A

Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code\(^1\) (for new programs): 05.0107
Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs): 30.0000
Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs): 07/01/2014
Institutional Board of Trustees’ Approval Date: 

Proposal Type (check all that apply):

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\(^*\)Requires “Section V: Program Curriculum” of Abbreviated Template

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:
I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

______________________________
Signature
Date:

Printed Name:

Program Request - Abbreviated Template
University of Utah
Center for Latin American Studies
08/20/2013

Section I: Request

The College of Humanities at the University of Utah requests approval for the establishment of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) and requests that the Center be granted permanent status. The center aims to increase knowledge, understanding, and awareness of Latin American countries, cultures and languages through multidisciplinary and multi-institutional collaborative activities. CLAS will collaborate with the current Latin American Studies Program at the University of Utah, which will continue to administer its academic programs.

Faculty Consultation: The Latin American Studies Program currently has approximately 70 affiliated faculty members across more than 10 colleges and 20 academic departments, but has no faculty lines of its own. During the summer of 2013, the draft proposal to establish CLAS was circulated among all affiliated Latin American Studies faculty, who were then invited to attend two meetings to discuss the Center’s proposed missions, institutional structure, and activities. We invited the faculty who were unable to attend the meetings to submit comments and suggestions via email. The meetings to discuss the draft proposal were held on June 20 and August 1, 2013. The faculty received the proposal with enthusiasm, noting that the program’s recent growth beyond the academic programs justified the creation of center status. They agreed that as a center, CLAS would provide faculty and students with new opportunities to enhance their research, teaching and learning, as well as expand the Center’s overall research profile, its ability to compete for external grants, and its efforts at public engagement. We did not receive any objections to the proposal to establish the center.

Section II: Need

A. Mission

The Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) at the University of Utah fosters knowledge of Latin America and its peoples by enhancing the scope and quality of teaching, research, and community engagement related to the region.

To accomplish this mission, CLAS

- Supports teaching and curricular initiatives related to Latin America across campus, including the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, medical sciences, and professional schools.
- Fosters and enhances the scope and quality of research related to Latin America carried out by faculty and students at the University of Utah.
- Encourages collaboration with community partners and with other national and international universities.
- Disseminates scholarship, innovative teaching materials, and information about Latin America through its website, through conferences, public events, lectures, workshops, and teacher training.
• Serves as a resource to business, government, community organizations, and the media that have a need for expertise on Latin America or Latin American communities living in the United States.
• Collaborates with local and national K-16 institutions by providing teacher training opportunities, innovative curricula, and assessment.

B. Need

The Latin American Studies Program is one of several area studies programs at the University of Utah that seek to contribute to the internationalization of the campus and ensure that the university continues to evolve into a truly global and globalized institution. Given Latin America’s geopolitical, cultural, and economic importance to the United States and Utah, the existence of a strong center that promotes teaching, research and outreach related to the region and supports the teaching mission of the Latin American Studies Program is essential to the success of the university’s internationalization initiatives. Mexico and Brazil are regional economic powerhouses with close economic and political relationships with the United States and Utah. Utah exports to South America have more than doubled since 2005 while exports to Mexico have increased by 350% during the same period. Brazil is a global economic powerhouse – it recently passed Italy and the United Kingdom to become the sixth largest economy in the world, and will likely soon surpass France to become the fifth largest (behind only the U.S., China, Japan and Germany). Mexico is the third largest trading partner of the United States (behind only Canada and China) that as a result of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) has an economy that is closely integrated with our own. Other countries, such as Chile, Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Argentina and Peru are also strategically and economically important to the United States. Indeed, one of the current priorities for the Utah Governor’s Office of Economic Development is to deepen economic ties to Latin American countries such as Brazil, Mexico and Peru.

Deepening economic, cultural, and political linkages between the United States and Latin America have created strong demand for individuals with advanced competency in Latin American languages and sophisticated understanding of the region’s peoples, countries, cultures, and contemporary issues. The need for such specialized knowledge is now critical in sectors such as business, health care, education, social services, the military and international law enforcement, making programmatic development in Latin American Studies more pressing than ever. Much of this need is domestic. The number of immigrants from Latin America living in Utah has increased by more than 200% during the past two decades, one of the fastest growth rates in the country. In some cities in the state (Salt Lake City, Midvale, West Valley City) immigrants from Latin America make up more than 20% of the population, and in some smaller towns (Wendover, Moroni), the percentage is even higher. This demographic shift now requires that social workers, school teachers, nurses, lawyers, and doctors have much greater linguistic and cultural competency to adequately serve this population. Therefore, immigration from Latin America to the United States creates a need for expertise in Latin American cultures and languages among professionals, and this expertise is highly valued by employers across industries, in both public and private sectors.

To meet local and national need for Latin American specialists, for innovative research about Latin America, and for graduates with advanced skills in Latin American languages, we have expanded and restructured during the last five years around six new initiatives: 1) the creation of a B.A. Degree in Latin American Studies; 2) strengthening the instruction of Spanish and Portuguese at the university; 3) the enhancement of course offerings and course content related to Brazil and Brazilian Studies; 4) the
development of instruction of Nahuatl and Quechua, two major indigenous languages spoken in Latin America; 5) the creation of an MA degree program in Latin American Studies; 6) and the creation of a new Center for Latin American Studies, which will collaborate with the degree programs and enhance our ability to compete for and administer external grants.

With the approval of the MA in Latin American Studies by the Board of Regents in January 2013, we successfully completed the first five steps of our plan for institutional development, and are ready to establish a center to oversee research and community engagement and to support the teaching mission of the academic program that will continue to house the minor, major and MA degrees in Latin American Studies. The establishment of the center is necessary for CLAS to fulfill its mission of becoming a major hub for Latin American-related activities on campus, as well as a resource center with the capacity to support research, teaching and outreach related to Latin America. In particular, establishing CLAS as a center will allow us to compete for and manage multiple extramural grants simultaneously. In 2012 the Latin American Studies Program received a $160,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance teaching of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Utah, to develop Brazilian Studies content across colleges, and to provide opportunities for faculty training and development. More than 20 faculty from a dozen departments participated in this grant. We have also collaborated with the Honors College to raise and distribute $80,000 in student scholarships since 2010. The next major strategic goal for CLAS is to apply to the Department of Education to become a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) for Latin American Studies. Grants and programs like these will significantly raise the prestige of the University of Utah as a major center for Latin America-related scholarship, teaching and outreach.

A strong Center for Latin American Studies that fosters cutting edge research, actively disseminates knowledge about the region, and supports the teaching mission of the ongoing Latin American Studies Program to train graduates with knowledge of Latin America will allow the university to develop into an important regional and national resource for business, government, and nonprofit sectors. As a center, CLAS will have greater capacity to coordinate and support activities that link the University to the wider Utah community by sponsoring public lectures, organizing seminars for business and political leaders, providing consulting services for businesses and nonprofits, and developing innovative teaching materials and teacher training workshops for K-16 institutions in the state. We expect to work closely with the university's new Office for Global Engagement to strategize about and implement initiatives related to Latin America.

C. Similar programs and centers

No other colleges or universities in Utah currently house a Center for Latin American Studies, and upon approval, this will be the only such center in the entire Intermountain region.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The creation of center status will have minimal impact on the institutional or administrative structures that already exist on campus. CLAS will be housed administratively in the College of Humanities, along with the Latin American Studies Program, which will continue to administer the undergraduate and graduate degree programs. CLAS will rely on existing staff and budgets, which presently support the many activities that enhance research, teaching and community engagement already under way. The creation of center status
will have no initial impact on instructional programs or on enrollments related to the Latin American Studies Program and will not impact the Program’s relationships or agreements with affiliated departments.

As funds become available and the institutional capacity of CLAS grows, the Center will support student research opportunities, scholarships, study abroad opportunities, internships and public events that will raise the profile of Latin American Studies among students. These initiatives will provide incentives for students to take courses in the Latin American Studies Program and in the Department of Languages and Literature, and to pursue majors, minors and graduate degrees in Latin American Studies and related disciplines. We expect this to have a positive influence on enrollments in courses and degree programs related to Latin American Studies.

The Latin American Studies Program already has sufficient office and activity space in the Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building to support the activities of the newly established center so no new equipment or space is needed. CLAS will share staff with the Latin American Studies Program and continue to collaborate with the Asia Center to share costs and staff where appropriate. The current Director and Associate Director of the Latin American Studies Program will also serve as the Director and Associate Director of CLAS. The administrative officer (shared with the Asia Center) and two work-study office support positions (shared with the Asia Center) are currently sufficient to support CLAS activities. As funds become available and initiatives multiply, the Center will increase staff to support the management of grants and scholarships, events planning and coordination, and community engagement.

The center will establish a Faculty Advisory Board that will consult with and advise the Director on center priorities, missions, and strategic initiatives, decisions on major policy questions, and proposals for interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach activities. The Faculty Advisory Board will consist of six affiliated faculty (in addition to the Director, who serves as the Chair of the board), who will be recruited and appointed by the Director. In selecting members, the Director will strive to achieve balance in representation of colleges, departments, faculty rank, and area of specialization.

### Section IV: Finances

No new funds will be required for the Center at this time. Existing budgets and grant funding will initially support Center activities and staff. The cost-sharing arrangements between Latin American Studies and the Asia Center will remain in place.

Fundraising and competing for external grants will be top priorities for CLAS. During the spring of 2014, we plan to apply for a Department of Education Title VI grant to establish a National Resource Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Utah. With the ongoing success of the Latin American Studies Program, previous success receiving external grants, demonstrated ability to support scholarship and community outreach activities, and establishment of the Center for Latin American Studies, the University of Utah will be in an excellent position to compete for this prestigious grant.
Council Approval

Note: This form is intended to track the progress of a proposal (whether from Academic Affairs or Health Sciences) through the Undergraduate and Graduate Councils.

Proposal: Center for Latin American Studies

This proposal needs to go through:

- Undergraduate Council
- Graduate Council
- Both Approvals [X]
- Grad Approval/Undergrad Notification

This proposal has been approved by:

Chair of Undergraduate Council [Signature] Date: 9/04/2013

Chair of Graduate Council [Signature] Date: 9/30/13

Once the appropriate signature(s) have been obtained, please forward this completed form to the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. (NOTE: The SVP-AA is the Chief Academic Officer for the University of Utah and reports to the Board of Regents in this capacity. When necessary, the CAO will get a signature from the SVP-HSC.)

Chief Academic Officer [Signature] Date:

Once the Chief Academic Officer’s signature has been obtained, this approval document will be forwarded to the Office of the Academic Senate.
September 24, 2013

TO: Graduate Council

FR: Ann L. Darling
Chair, Undergraduate Council

RE: Center for Latin American Studies

On Thursday, September 3, the Undergraduate Council voted to approve a proposal from the College of Humanities for creating a Center for Latin American Studies. The Council felt strongly that the consolidation of several disparate activities under one administrative umbrella would enhance the experience of our undergraduate students.
August 20, 2013

To: The University of Utah Graduate Council

From: Robert Newman, College of Humanities

Re: Support for creation of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)

As Dean of the College of Humanities, I write in support of the creation of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) to be housed in the College of Humanities, along with the existing Latin American Studies Program. The College of Humanities and the Latin American Studies Program have greatly expanded their teaching, research, and outreach initiatives during the past five years. These initiatives include the creation of a BA and an MA degree program and the procurement of a major federal grant to strengthen instruction in Latin American Studies across colleges at the University of Utah. As the College further expands its focus on Latin American Studies by applying for National Resource Center Status next year, there will be many opportunities for additional growth. The existence of the Center for Latin American Studies will be a great asset in procuring NRC status, in applying for other major grants, and in providing the institutional structure necessary for further expansion. The new center will collaborate with the current Latin American Studies Program, which will continue to administer the undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Latin American Studies. The existing administrative staff and space of the Latin American Studies Program are sufficient to support the establishment and operation of CLAS and thus the center will require no new funding from the university.

In short, there is ample need for CLAS, its creation will contribute to the university’s international and interdisciplinary initiatives, and it will provide significant benefits to faculty, students, and the community.

Thank you for your attention,

RN/jd
August 12, 2013

To: The University of Utah Graduate Council

From: Robert Newman, College of Humanities

Re: Support for creation of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS)

As Dean of the College of Humanities, I write in support of the creation of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) to be housed in the College of Humanities. The College of Humanities and the existing Latin American Studies Program have greatly expanded their teaching, research, and outreach initiatives during the past five years. These initiatives include the creation of a BA and an MA degree program and the procurement of a major federal grant to strengthen instruction in Latin American Studies across colleges at the University of Utah. As the College further expands its focus in Latin American Studies by applying for National Resource Center Status next year, there will be many opportunities for additional growth. The existence of the Center for Latin American Studies will be a great asset in procuring NRC status, in applying for other major grants, and in providing the institutional structure necessary for further expansion. The new center will replace the current Latin American Studies Program and take over administration of its academic programs, grants and activities. The existing administrative staff and space are sufficient for the operation of CLAS and thus the center will require no new funding from the university.

In short, there is ample need for CLAS, its creation will contribute to the university’s international and interdisciplinary initiatives, and it will provide significant benefits to faculty, students, and the community.

Thank you for your attention,

RN/jd
September 11, 2013

Rebecca Horn, Director
Latin American Studies Program
University of Utah
215 South Center Campus Drive, Room 210
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Dear Professor Horn,

I am writing in support of your proposal to create the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) in the strongest possible terms. As Dean of the Honors College, I have worked closely with LAS in recent years on a number of initiatives, initiatives that have contributed to the internationalization and diversification of the Honors College. We collaborated on a grant from the Mexican government to fund scholarships for students of Mexican descent, which over four years will have distributed $90,000 to UU students, including those in the Honors College. I’m especially enthusiastic about the Culture and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) initiative, which LAS has piloted, in which students study discipline-based content (e.g., art history, history, political science) in Spanish or Portuguese. Through our ongoing collaboration, the Honors College has agreed to offer two courses 2014-15 fully in the target language, constituting a significant dissemination of the CLAC model on campus.

These are examples of the kind of activities undertaken by LAS that contribute significantly to internationalization of the campus and its colleges and departments. The creation of a Center for Latin American Studies will provide the institutional setting for such activities and prove to be a great asset to all students at this university.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Torti
Dean, Honors College
September 12, 2013

Rebecca Horn, Director
Latin American Studies Program
University of Utah
210 Carolyn Tanner Irish Humanities Building
CAMPUS

Dear Rebecca,

As Chief Global Officer in the Office for Global Engagement, I write to express my support for the proposal to create the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS).

In the last decade, the Latin American Studies Program has flourished, currently boasting a vibrant and successful academic program that includes the minor, major and MA degrees. Various other initiatives are now also underway, including the administration of external grants, sponsorship of campus and community events, and involvement with K-16 outreach, among others. The proposal to create the Center for Latin American Studies reflects the expansion of activities beyond the core academic program and the need for a new and appropriate administrative home for them.

The creation of CLAS will support teaching, research and service activities related to Latin America campus-wide. It thus aligns with and complements the mission of the Office for Global Engagement (OGE), which is to provide "leadership for cross-campus coordination and support of global initiatives at the University of Utah." CLAS will enhance these efforts and elevate the visibility of Latin American Studies on campus and beyond. Center status would also enhance the application by Latin American Studies to the U.S. Department of Education for designation as a National Resource Center (NRC), an application that will be submitted this academic year (2013-14).

In summary, I strongly support the proposal to establish the Center for Latin American Studies. I consider it a critical element in the creation of a truly globalized university.

Sincerely,

Michael Hardman, Distinguished Professor
Chief Global Officer
Office for Global Engagement
September 25, 2013

Memorandum

To: Rebecca Horn, Director, Latin American Studies

From: Janet Theiss, Director, The Asia Center

Re: Support letter for establishment of a Center for Latin American Studies

As founding director of the Asia Center at the University of Utah, I enthusiastically support the establishment of a Center for Latin American Studies. I work closely with the director of Latin American Studies because the missions and activities of the two programs are essentially the same and we are developing along parallel trajectories. The Latin American Studies program has grown dramatically in the last few years since the creation of an undergraduate degree. Like the Asian Studies Program before it, it has become increasingly involved in facilitating the development of Latin American foci in teaching, research, and outreach across the campus and in the wider community. As its activities have grown far beyond the scope of an academic program, it is now appropriate to establish a Center to manage them. Following the path of the Asia Center, Latin American Studies has garnered enough faculty and external funding to apply for Department of Education funding as a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC) for Latin American Studies. This prestigious status will bring substantial resources to the university for fellowships for graduate and undergraduate students, curriculum development, faculty development and more. The establishment of a Center for Latin American Studies is essential for attracting grant funding and other external resources and for the continued growth and excellence of activities across the university related to Latin America.

Sincere regards,

Janet Theiss
Director, The Asia Center
Associate Professor, History Department