

Oct. 15, 2003

To: Gary Kiger

From: Norm Jones

RE: History Compact Plan

Enclosed are three Compact Planning initiatives from History. The Department has had a very fruitful discussion in creating these, and we look forward to the next iteration.

## **Historian of South/South East Asia**

In keeping with our 2001 Compact Plan, History requests a new faculty line in the history of the South/South East Asia. Restoring a subject lost to our curriculum with the retirement of William Lye, the position would increase access and reduce the student/teacher ratio in the Department. The primary teaching responsibilities of the position would be History 1020/1030 and USU 1320. All three of these courses are Breadth Humanities offerings, and the new position would add at least 110 new seats per annum to University Studies.

Besides serving University Studies, this position would help solve History's shortage of world civilization classes for teaching majors. We cannot offer enough "world" history courses to satisfy the requirement of non-American, non-European training, either in terms of sections available or in terms of geographical coverage. We currently have no one teaching anything east of Suez or west of Indochina, so upper division courses in south/South East Asian history would be a welcome addition.

Depending on the research specialties of the person chosen to occupy it, this position would enrich a number of other areas of the curriculum. Asian Studies would benefit directly from it and British and Commonwealth Studies would certainly be aided by it. It might bring to the Department someone who uses the theoretical tools of subaltern studies, or other post-modernist methodologies. It might also strengthen our offerings in the History of Science, gender studies, and religious history. In turn, new specialties would enrich our graduate offerings.

The cost of such a position would be \$40,000 in salary plus benefits, and \$6,000 in new operating.

The impact of the position would be immediately demonstrable, in that it would provide more seats in USU 1320 and History 1020/1030 from the first semester in which it took effect. It would immediately improve History's student/faculty ratio as well, lowering it to around 25:1 in

the major.

## Compact Planning Initiative to increase graduate assistant funding for History Department

In order to attract exceptional students to our graduate program and to capture the best of them the Department of History needs to make our level of support more competitive. We propose to accomplish this by increasing the departmentally funded Graduate Assistants from 7 to 16 ie, eight in each year's class, and by raising the amount of the assistantships to \$12,000 in the department and to \$15,000 for the two editorial fellows at the *Western Historical Quarterly*. Financial offers at other comparable institutions fall within this range of support, and carry additional waivers of tuition and fees. Currently we have but 3 or 4 assistantships to offer each year that carry \$7,500 stipends. This year the History Department employs 9 half time graduate assistants, within a graduate student body of approximately 24 individuals. Funding comes from a budget line of \$52,042 plus \$15,000 supplied ad hoc from the Provost to help ease bottlenecks for USU 1320. In addition, the Department provides \$7,500 from its budget to support the two editorial fellows in the *Western Historical Quarterly*. These funds are supplemented by \$5,000 from the Mountain West Center [which includes earnings from the Ellsworth endowment] and \$2,000 from the Graduate Dean's budget. Each editorial fellow receives \$13,000 for the two semesters and work in the summer. The balance of the funding for these assistantships comes from the WHQ operating budget.

We cannot compete for many of the best applicants because of the limited number of assistantships and the non-competitive size of the stipend. The WHQ pool of applicants for the editorial fellowship is usually qualitatively more competitive than the department's, owing no

doubt to the unique experience it provides, but also because \$13,000 is substantially more than our paltry \$7,500. Increasing the stipends would permit greater selectivity, widen the range of recruiting, and improve the conversion rate of our best applicants. Clearly the advantages of an improved applicant pool are the same at the graduate level as those the university is trying to achieve through its new admission policies for freshmen. Furthermore, it would allow the Department to respond more readily to bottlenecks in general education surveys, and could provide some occasional research support for faculty. An improved applicant pool will also create competitive candidates for University fellowships on a more regular basis, thus allowing for even more graduate students to be funded.

The implementation of this proposal would begin in the next graduate admission cycle following its funding.

The success of the initiative would be measured by the increased quality of the applicant pool and a higher conversion rate among our best applicants.

To achieve these goals would require an additional annual increase of approximately \$144,000. This would provide for the additional 9 GA's, increase each of the department's stipends to \$12,000, and allow the department to supplement the two editorial fellowships with \$2,000 each, raising them to \$15,000.

## **History of Women, Family, and Gender**

In keeping with larger College and University goals as well as specific Departmental needs, History requests a new faculty line in the history of women and gender. The Department chooses to leave both the chronological and regional focus of the position open.

History makes the request in order to serve a wide variety of needs. The position:

- restores full representation to a methodological specialty lost to our curriculum with the retirement of Dr. Anne M. Butler;
- allows the department to offer, on a regular basis, The History of Women and Family, a class that Dr. Butler taught and that students enthusiastically demanded (to the point where it was repeatedly oversubscribed);
- may potentially increase the number of women faculty in History, an issue of particular importance because of the departure of two senior women from our ranks over the past two years;
- immediately improves access by providing more courses (and seats) in USU and HIST survey courses;
- expands research specialties for our graduate offerings;
- improves the Department's student/teacher ratio, lowering it to around 25:1 in the major;
- enhances Women and Gender Studies both in its minor and its Area Studies certificate by adding to faculty strength and expanding course offerings.

In addition, because the Department does not specify a time period or region, the position:

- will likely increase access to "bottleneck" courses that have complicated the academic progress of U.S.U. students. The primary teaching responsibilities of the position would be in one or more of the following: HIST 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1700, 2700, or 2710 as well as USU 1300 or 1320.

(The History courses are either Breadth Humanities offerings or American Institutions classes.

The new position would add at least 110 new seats per annum to University Studies);

- will also expand the Department's upper-division and graduate-level course offerings in a field of study that has continually engaged the research interests of our students;
- may also (because of its focus outside the U.S.) alleviate the bottleneck faced by the Department's in world civilization courses for teaching majors, offering more sections and wider geographical coverage for undergraduates who focus on a career in public schools;
- may (depending on the research specialties of the faculty member) enrich a number of other interdisciplinary areas of the curriculum such as British and Commonwealth Studies, Asian Studies, American Studies, and International Studies.

The cost of such a position would be \$40,000 plus benefits and \$6,000 in new operating.