

**Florida Atlantic University
Department of History
Program Review
March 14-15, 2019**

Review Team:

**Laura Belmonte (Oklahoma State University)
Charles Bolton (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
Laura Vernon (Florida Atlantic University)**

OVERVIEW

This report provides the findings of the review team, Dr. Laura Belmonte, Dr. Charles Bolton, and Dr. Laura Vernon, on FAU's Department of History. The findings are based on a review of the Department's self-study document, web materials, and a site visit on March 14th and 15th, 2019. The team met with:

Department faculty
Russell Ivy, Senior Associate Provost
Karin Scarpinato, Associate Vice President for Research
Khaled Sobhan, Dean of the Graduate College
Douglas Kanter, Director of Graduate Studies Program for History
Ben Lowe, Chair of the History Department
Ed Pratt, Dean of Undergraduate Studies
Eric Hanne, Director of Undergraduate Studies Program for History
Dr. Michael Horswell, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters
Graduate and undergraduate students

Our visit was well organized, highly informative, and enjoyable. We appreciated the wide range of stakeholders we could speak with as part of the process.

Strengths of the Department

Overall, the Department has a strong and collegial collection of teacher/scholars, as evidenced by the

taking an introductory course. Professional advisors ~~may~~ always encourage this budding interest, especially if the key objective is to stay on track with an original plan of study to finish in four years. The FAU History Department has also tried to promote a Student History Club to build a sense of community among History majors ~~and~~ perhaps entice new students to major in History), but these efforts also face some institutional obstacles: onerous training for officers of student clubs and bureaucratic and time-consuming procedures associated with student ~~planning~~.

The Department's infrastructure is dated and inadequate. While parts of campus have lavish new buildings, History contends with broken furniture, noise issues, and severe limitations of space that inhibit both teaching and student activities. ~~A~~ Adequate support for the University Library may also be an obstacle to attracting and retaining research ~~active~~ faculty. The Library is essentially the lab for Humanities scholars, yet the Library's budget has remained stagnant for more than a ~~decade~~ ~~the~~ costs for electronic resources and journals has increased. While some important materials in these areas have been eliminated, the Library has not been able to purchase any History books for the last two years.

Progress on Recommendations from Previous Program Review

The Department had five recommendations from the previous Program Review:

1. *Recover two tenure-track lines that had not been repl(an) BT (e)4.4(.003 T3(hat)2.4(hs T)1(r)-1.4(o)-3.7(n)*

Recommendations Concerning Program Goals Discussed in the Self

1. *Develop a pre-Law track in the major.* We endorse this move. The Self Study lays out a number of good reasons for developing such a track in the major, and as noted, this strategy can be easily accomplished. Such a track may also help attract new students to the major.
2. *Develop more public hi* o

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priorities if possible. For instance, while the Department's French/Francophone History position is mentioned as one that would include the histories of people from the French Caribbean, perhaps the position should be reimagined as French Empire with a specialization in the French Caribbean. And the request for this position could be aligned more intentionally with the College's Americas Initiative. The College is also planning for a cluster hire to increase the

4. One possible revenue-producing model for the Department would be to develop a continuing education program for local residents interested in South Florida history, culture, and/or environment. Again, HBOI might be an interesting partner in joining the Environmental History and Marine History with Environmental Science and Marine Science in continuing education. We understood from our conversations with Associate Provost Russ Ivy that such programs can charge tuition above the in-state rates for such programs and a percentage of that additional revenue can return to the Department. Given the Department's strength in community engagement, such a program might be something the Department could develop without too much difficulty.
5. Another potential tool for student recruitment may be to offer a certificate, perhaps partnering with other areas in the college, with emphasis on digital technologies or human rights and social justice.
6. The Department is commended for reaching out to work more closely with University Advising Services. It would be helpful for the Department and the College to continue working with University Advising Services to establish more formalized early advising pathways for access to potential History majors.