

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

## A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies – Establishment of the Doctor of Philosophy in Hispanic Studies Degree Program

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the graduate faculty of the Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, to offer the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Hispanic Studies degree program, effective Autumn Quarter, 2012. The tuition will be set at Graduate Tier I. The degree program will have provisional status with a review to be conducted by the Graduate School in the 2017-2018 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

## BACKGROUND

In November, 2011, the Graduate School received a full proposal from the graduate faculty in the Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies requesting authority to offer the Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies. Program implementation is planned for Autumn Quarter 2012. The Division anticipates enrolling between three and five students per year, with the same number graduating annually by 2017.

The Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies will provide students rigorous academic training in the history and criticism of the literatures and cultures of Spain and Latin America. The development of analytical and research skills fundamental to significant original scholarship will form the program core. The required Graduate Certificate in Public Scholarship will provide students practical skills to make their knowledge useful and accessible through an understanding of the public role of scholarship in the ongoing demographic and cultural societal changes. The Ph.D. program is designed to respond to the emerging practical realities of the academic workplace of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The new reality is that many graduates may find themselves employed in institutions different from the University of Washington, such as regional universities, small private colleges, community colleges, and both private and public high schools. Further, training in public scholarship will allow graduates to seek employment in non-traditional areas as NGOs, governmental agencies, and the private sector.

In November, 2011, the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School appointed two faculty in the field from other universities to evaluate the Ph.D. in Hispanic

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Studies proposal. Both reviewers supported approval of the proposed Ph.D. program. Each reviewer made recommendations on the proposal to which the Division responded.

On January 5, 2012, the Graduate School Council considered the Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies proposal. The Council recommended unanimously that the proposal be forwarded to the Board of Regents for review and approval.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School and the Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences have reviewed and approved the Graduate School Council's recommendation.