



Center for Latin American and Border Studies (CLABS)

MSC 3445
PO BOX 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Nason House
1070 University Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88003

CLABS Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 11, 2020

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

In Attendance: David Ortiz, Christopher Brown, Efren Delgado, Neil Harvey, Hector Diaz, Inigo Garcia Bryce, C. Alison Newby, Delano Lewis, Delia Valles-Rosales, Yvette Navarro

- **State of CLABS**

Out CLABS Advisory Board is still in need of a business school advisor at NMSU. David Ortiz has been trying to get in contact with Chris Erikson, and upon suggestion, will contact Carlo Mora in the Accounting and Information Systems department. Delano Lewis suggests that we bring in a community member to this advisory board to generate more community interest in CLABS. Everyone agreed, and David Ortiz will follow up with Delano Lewis on making this happen.

- **Reopening of the Nason House**

We are actively working on reopening Nason House. COVID-19 is putting a temporary halt to our reopening plans, but we have worked with the Provost's Office, the House manager, and Facilities to reopen as soon as the pandemic allows. Chris Brown, David Ortiz, Delano Lewis, Yvette Navarro, and Ana Escalante will have offices there and are slowly moving in, with a staggered schedule and following COVID guidelines. We envision Nason House to become a hub for events, meetings, use of the book collection, and space for faculty and students to have conversations, as soon the pandemic allows it.

- **Nason Collection**

Previous efforts to catalog the Nason house collection have been unsuccessful, but with the support of the Provost and the Faculty Senate Library Committee, we want to pursue this effort again. It might be different this time around since we have institutional support. We want the collection to be a non-circulating collection housed at Nason but searchable into the Main library's catalog. It will be valuable to have these books available to interested students and faculty again. The house can also provide a reading room for students to come into study, work, and perhaps read some books from our non-circulating collection to bring more life and activity in the house. We are working with interim Dean Terpis, the Provost, and the Faculty Senate Library Committee (through Christ Brown) to achieve this goal. Chris Brown mentioned that he would request David Ortiz to send him a memo in regarding this so he could officially place it in the Faculty Senate Library Committee Agenda. David Ortiz acknowledged he would do that.

- **Speaker Series**

Our first event featuring Dr. Harvey and his students on U.S. immigration policy effects on migrants was a success with more than 120 attendees from NMSU and the Las Cruces community, the larger southwest region, and even some international attendees. We hope to continue to gather data to show administration the level of interest in our center. David Ortiz plans to continue the all-online Speaker Series in Spring 2021. The idea is to plan for and have the slate of presenters for Spring 2021 ready to go by January. The possible speakers will be internal and external with the help of several advisory board member's recommendation. Hector Luis Diaz suggests that we try to establish connections with universities in Mexico so that we can collaborate with research projects and future online courses. Neil Harvey would like to invite speaker Dr. Sonia Toledo from the Universidad Autonoma de Chiapas to continue to build this relationship. Inigo Garcia-Bryce suggested we have at least one faculty member or junior scholar at NMSU share their research. He also emphasized that we expand our reach to all Latin America, not just Mexico. Efren Delgado suggests Samuel Bernardo Perez Vega from the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua. Allison Newby expressed that she knows of scholars in Cuba that might be interested in presenting, but it might bring about complications in terms of Zoom access and payment.

Within our budget limits, CLABS will need to consider the of perhaps paying small honorariums for the individuals we choose to ask to present within this Speaker Series, if they are not close to our network of scholars. This will need to be evaluated given our budget constraints. David Ortiz will follow up with the recommendations from the board on presenters and will form two committees: 1) to organize the speaker series, 2) to find and establish agreements of collaboration with other universities in Latin America.

- **Student Scholarships**

CLABS wants to continue to provide some scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. Budget must be kept in mind. Our resources are limited but the advisory board will need to come to an agreement about student support, along with a justification of the use of these funds vis-à-vis the Center's other commitments to support scholarly work in the area of border and Latin American studies. David Ortiz suggests trying to support one or two undergraduate and one or two graduate students per year. Delano Lewis suggests that we attract community interest to possibly get extra funding for these scholarships across Las Cruces and El Paso. Inigo Garcia-Bryce talked about a Nason Committee that was mostly made up of community members that helped with student funding. Neil Harvey agrees that staying involved in the community is essential in showing administration the worth of this center and its potential impact on funding students who are completing their honors or master's thesis. David Ortiz will follow up with these individuals to try to engage the community on the funding of student's work, and will create a committees to work on student scholarships.

- **Fall 2021 Symposium**

CLABS plans to organize a symposium during the next Spring or Fall semester (depending on COVID crises). The Provost likes this idea and David Ortiz asked the advisory board for support on organizing it and ideas on possible themes, scholars, etc. The advisory board were very enthusiastic about this and supported the idea. David Ortiz suggested one of the symposium

possibilities would be to highlight the research of young scholars (i.e. scholars in the final stages of PhD or early career) in Latin American studies or border issues. This symposium could help them present their work, have it reviewed and discussed by key scholars in their fields, and potentially have them published in our future CLABS peer-reviewed journal. All advisory board members should keep this symposium in mind and suggest alternate themes and speakers if they choose. David Ortiz will follow up with those interested and create a committee to work on organizing the symposium.

- **Open Source Peer-reviewed Journal**

As a long term plan, CLABS would like to be able to create an open source peer-reviewed journal in Latin American and Border Studies. There are many issues to consider here but we have the support from the Provost and we will work with Dean Terpis on this. The board members were very positive about this and David Ortiz will follow up with those interested and create a committee to work on creating the journal.

- **LatinNews Weekly Subscription**

David Ortiz asked the board if they would be interested in CLABS providing a subscription to this service. The board thought this would be a great resource for the NMSU community, and would like to see this resource at NMSU. Neil Harvey suggested we try cost sharing with other units or interested partners to make this happen. David Ortiz said he would look into this and will send out more information about subscribing to LatinNews weekly.

- **Miscellaneous**

Inigo Garcia-Bryce announced that the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS) Annual Meeting will happen in March 18-20, 2021. Last year's meeting was to take place in Las Cruces, but was cancelled due to COVID. The 2021 meeting will be virtual. CLABS will be a co-sponsor of the meeting. David Ortiz will meet with Inigo Garcia-Bryce and the RMCLAS organizing committee early next year to discuss how we can help support the conference. This meeting should provide good promotion for CLABS.