



Center for Latin American and Border Studies (CLABS)

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CLABS Partnerships and Agreements Committee

Thursday, February 4, 2021

10:30 am to 11:30 am

In Attendance: David Ortiz, Hector Diaz, Yvette Navarro

- **Partnerships**

Our CLABS Partnership and Agreements Committee agreed that CLABS needs to establish engagement with other universities. Both David and Hector have contacts in Mexico, various countries in Latin America, and Spain that might be interested in partnering with NMSU. They will act as facilitators for agreements with these institutions.

- **Umbrella Agreement**

Hector recommends creating an umbrella agreement that will offer a proposal to collaborate with Universities for future projects such as teaching, research, and student exchange. This will also include a proposal to reinstate a binational PhD program, which could help NMSU achieve R1 status. Hector said that he might have a past proposal from UT Arlington that might help with this agreement to get approved by the HLC, the committee that offers accreditation for NMSU.

- **Binational Ph.D.**

Hector proposes that this program be interdisciplinary and involve a dual degree in Social Policy. However, the students would not have to have graduated in Social Work to be considered for acceptance. This means that students involved in this program will have to be accepted to both Universities. Students will need to take the GRE and the Exani-III and eventually complete their

dissertation or thesis through the internet via APA guidelines. Students would pay at their home institution even if they are located at another institution. Therefore, maintaining an equal number of students for both universities will be essential. Hector's past program included a cohort of about 12 students (6 from a U.S. university and 6 from a Mexican or Latin American university). Additionally, this program may need a recruiter to find bilingual students from various institutions nationwide that may be interested in entering this program.

David suggested we may have to go to different departments (such as Government or Sociology) and department heads to see if they could offer support. Hector suggested that various departments could contribute one course to the program (6 classes for each institution involved) to avoid a vast burden while also ensuring that they have a chance to invest. David brought up the issue of whether or not the program would offer professors with a course reduction, have the course be part of the teaching load, or have professors gain additional compensation for teaching the class.

- **Step-by-Step Process**

Hector suggests that we develop a step-by-step process on how to handle and establish potential agreements with other universities. By bringing this to others attention, NMSU can have more partnerships with other Universities and make it easier for people to know the procedure behind this.

- **To Do**

David will have a meeting with the Provost on Monday, February 8, 2021, to discuss the steps for developing an umbrella agreement. From there, we will determine whom to include in this process and which departments may be interested in helping this project come to fruition. David mentioned that we might have to go through the Vice Provost for Research since there are student exchanges for graduate students.

Hector said he would send a manuscript out to give us a better idea of the work we could potentially accomplish.