



Center for Latin American and Border Studies (CLABS)

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CLABS Partnerships and Agreements Committee

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

11:00 am to 12:30 am

In Attendance: David Ortiz, Hector Diaz, Yvette Navarro

- **Binational Ph.D.**

After David's meeting with the Provost, he informed the committee that we need to run this partnership and agreement by the Provost. She provided a list of questions that need answering in order to get the framework officially approved. Hector retrieved past information and documentation about the dual degree he ran in at UT Arlington. David talked about this program potentially being part of the new college NMSU is proposing encompassing the Social Work, Education, and the Sociology department.

- **Problems with Ph.D. Program to be Solved**

One worry the Provost has concerns fee and fee structure. Hector proposes that the students pay at their home school since that model worked best for the program at UT Arlington. If this is agreement does not pan out, this might create a barrier for Mexican students since US tuition and cost of living can be unaffordable.

Additionally, money for research might be an issue, therefore it would be best to recruit faculty with grants, promote secondary data analysis, and encourage the students to apply for scholarships for research. The committee would also need to talk to the departments involved and possibly ask about giving some of the students in this program GA-ships. Ideally, the

committee hopes to work alongside professors with strong external funding to help with this problem.

Other challenges include the amount of time needed to dedicate to this program and its students. Hector brought up the difficulties of recruiting students and proposed a possible director for the program may be necessary that be in charge of recruitment, assisting applicants with scholarships, admissions, immigration papers and help with dissertation proposals and defenses.

David also brought up the issue with class workload since this program entails 4 courses per semester in contrast to the traditional 3 classes.

- **To Do**

Since students would come to NMSU their 3rd and 4th semester, the committee needs to look at courses from the departments of Sociology, Social Work, and Education to find applicable classes that can be part of the program. Other departments that are interested might be able to offer up an elective class to the program's students.

The committee will meet in early March in preparation for the meeting with the Provost mid-March. Hector will create a preliminary document answering questions and detailing solutions to potential problems. Both David and Yvette will also review this document before the meeting with the Provost.