

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

PRESENTED BY: Gordon Hill, Chair, Academic Programs Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 18, 2009

SUBJECT: **CGSR: Master of Arts in Anthropology**

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That Council approve the Master of Arts in Anthropology.

PURPOSE:

The Master of Arts is an academic program at the University of Saskatchewan. New fields of specialization in Masters programs must be approved by University Council.

SUMMARY

The goal of the program is to provide a high quality education in Anthropology, with a specialization in medical anthropology and qualitative ethnographic methodology, that will position the student for both continued graduate education or employment.

The following new courses will be included in the program:

ANTH 801.3 Contemporary Anthropological Theory

ANTH 802.3 Ethnographic Theory and Method

ANTH 804.3 Medical Anthropology

Program requirements are:

12 credit units consisting of ANTH 801, 802; Medical Anthropology Stream: ANTH 804; 3 credit unit elective in either ANTH or an allied field; plus a thesis.

Because this was a graduate program already reviewed by the College of Graduate Studies & Research, the Academic Programs Committee established a lead reviewer to review the proposal and present a report to the Committee. At its May 21 meeting following discussion with CGSR and Anthropology representatives, the Committee agreed to recommend approval to Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposal documentation, memo and report from the College of Graduate Studies and Research, and reviewer report

Proposal for Curriculum Change University of Saskatchewan

to be approved by University Council or by Academic Programs Committee

1. PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION

Title of proposal: **MA in Anthropology**

Degree(s): **Master of Arts** Field(s) of Specialization:

Level(s) of Concentration: Option(s):

Degree College: CGSR Department: Archaeology and Anthropology

Home College: Arts and Science

Contact person(s) (name, telephone, fax, e-mail):

James B. Waldram

Dept of Psychology

966-6170

j.waldram@usask.ca

Date:

Approved by the degree college and/or home college: Arts and Science Date:

Proposed date of implementation: September 2009

2. Type of change

Requiring approval by Council

- A new Degree-Level program or template for program.
- A new Field of Specialization at the Major or Honours Level of Concentration or template for a major or honours program
- Conversion of an existing program from regular to special tuition program.
- A change in the requirements for admission to a program
- A change in quota for a college
- Program revisions that will use new resources
- A replacement program, including program deletion
- A program deletion (consult Program Termination Procedures, approved by Council in May 2001)

Requiring approval by Academic Programs Committee

- Addition of a higher Level of Concentration to an existing Field of Specialization.
- Addition of a new Field of Specialization at the Minor Level of Concentration.

- ❑ A change in program options
- ❑ A change in the name of a Degree-level Program or Field of Specialization.
- ❑ A change in the total number of credit units required for an approved degree program.

3. RATIONALE

This statement should include information about program objectives, need for the program, demand, uniqueness and the expertise of the sponsoring unit. Please specify how this proposal relates to department/college plans and to Systematic Program Review or other review recommendations.

Overview of the Proposed Program

This proposal is for a Master of Arts program in Anthropology.

Anthropology as a discipline is broad, and consists of four major sub-fields: cultural anthropology (often glossed simply as “anthropology”; biological or physical anthropology; archaeology; and linguistics (or anthropological linguistics). Within the sub-field of cultural anthropology there are many areas of specialization, including medical anthropology; psychological anthropology; environmental anthropology; kinship; applied anthropology; political anthropology; ethnology; and anthropological humanism. It is common at the graduate level for Anthropology programs to identify a small number of such specializations as the focus of their programs.

Rather than propose a broadly-based general program in cultural anthropology, in keeping with disciplinary trends this proposal will establish the foundation for select streams that will maximize resources and strengths. The initial stream commensurate with this proposal will be medical anthropology. It is anticipated that a second stream in environmental anthropology will be developed next, pending the successful recruitment of appropriate faculty.

This proposal represents this initial focus on a medical anthropology stream, but has inclusive theory and methodology courses that will accommodate the development of future streams.

Background

University Council approved revisions to the Anthropology program for a limited time on January 10, 2005, with the condition that the College of Arts & Science review the resources for this program and submit additional program revisions to the Academic Programs Committee of Council by May, 2007. The revisions were expected to show 1) how the program could be made viable and sustainable; 2) how teaching loads of faculty can be reduced to a level conducive to permitting increased research activity of the faculty; and 3) how increased involvement of other anthropologists in the College and in St. Thomas More College (and elsewhere on campus) in designing the program and teaching in its core areas can be achieved.

After careful consideration of the available information, the following motion was approved by the Academic Programs Committee of University Council on March 8, 2008: “That the current Anthropology program lacks viability, and none of requisite expectations associated with current program’s limited approval is being met. The College of Arts & Science is instructed to, before May 1, 2008, submit a college-approved proposal for an Anthropology program that will satisfy the conditions identified in the University Council motion from January 10, 2005. The program proposal must demonstrate that the necessary resources will be available to allow effective delivery of the program.”

In response to the concerns raised in 2005, the Dean of Arts and Science in 2007 authorized the formation of an ad hoc committee of anthropologists to consider how the Anthropology program could be renovated to meet the requirements of Council. Chaired by Dr James B. Waldram, a medical anthropologist in the Department of Psychology, the committee developed a new undergraduate program that was ultimately approved by Council in spring of 2008. An important element in the success of the new program proposal was the amalgamation of the Anthropology and Archaeology programs into a new department (Archaeology and Anthropology) commencing July 1, 2008, which provided the necessary resources and disciplinary synergies for success. This new configuration met each of the APCs conditions noted above, and established the infrastructural, resource and programmatic baseline for a new graduate program that would both enhance research activities and the student experience at the University.

Provincial Need/Demand

Anthropology as a discipline is under-represented in Saskatchewan. The University of Regina has only four full-time faculty and offers courses only in the area of cultural anthropology, with no courses on Canada, Saskatchewan, or Aboriginal Canadian ethnology. Indeed, they lack a single specialist on Aboriginal peoples of Canada, and do not offer medical anthropology. The Anthropology graduate program at Regina is special case MA only. The proposed Anthropology graduate program at U of S, therefore, will fill an important niche by providing Saskatchewan undergraduates with the opportunity to remain in the province to continue their education. Further, the program will attract students from across Canada and especially Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, as it will be the only MA-level program with a clearly articulated medical anthropology stream in the Prairies, combined with unparalleled faculty resources in this area.

The proposed program, and its courses, will be attractive to graduate students in other programs at the University of Saskatchewan. This would include the School of Public Health, Community Health and Epidemiology, Nursing, Sociology, and Geography in particular, because of the emphasis in the program on the relationship between culture and health, especially the specialist course in medical anthropology. The core courses, in culture theory and ethnographic methods (see below) will be attractive as well to students looking for more training in qualitative methods (seriously underrepresented at the graduate level) and advanced culture theory, such as in the various social science fields (especially Psychology and Sociology).

National Context: The Saskatchewan Advantage

Medical anthropology is one of the fastest growing fields in Anthropology, yet there are only a few universities in Canada that offer an integrated graduate program in medical anthropology (McGill, and McMaster being the most notable), with none in Western Canada. Other universities offer graduate-level medical anthropology to varying degrees, often through the efforts of single specialist in the area.

Presently, there are eight medical anthropologists at the U of S, six of whom approach the topic from the perspective of cultural anthropology, and two from the perspective of biological anthropology. With the addition of a new position in medical anthropology (see Core Faculty below), *the U of S will arguably have as many if not more medical anthropologists than any other university in Canada!* The current proposal seeks to seize on this opportunity to create a vibrant graduate program that will be unique in the country. A national reputation will accrue almost instantaneously with the implementation of this proposal, due not only to this uniqueness but also to the strong reputation of the involved faculty.

Relationship to Departmental, College and University Plans

In response to SPR, and encouraged by the Dean's office in the College of Arts and Sciences, the new Department of Archaeology and Anthropology is embarking on the expansion of its graduate program, including the development of a Master's degree program in Anthropology (this proposal).

The University's Framework for Planning (1998) called for a promotion of scholarly inquiry and the intensification of research efforts. The proposed graduate program will meet these two goals by expanding scholarly research in the increasingly important area of culture and health, while training a new generation of scholars in the field.

The proposed program responds to several University goals and objectives as detailed in the Second Integrated Plan (2008). It speaks specifically to Priority A, the improvement of graduate experience and, by extension the undergraduate experience (through the training of graduate students as teaching assistants and the creation of a vibrant research climate where undergraduates can be exposed to research first-hand). It also addresses Priority B, the enhancement of the University's profile in research and scholarly work by expanding the current undergraduate anthropology program to include a graduate program, and building the latter around a focus on culture and health. Finally, Priority C calls for programs to work more effectively together across units: the proposed graduate program will include faculty from several departments in Arts and Science as well as Medicine, and Agriculture and Bioresources, and will seek collaborative initiatives with the School of Public Health. Anthropology as a discipline is a pioneer in the type of community-based research envisioned in the Integrated Plan (p.5), and its long history of scholarship involving Aboriginal peoples makes it the logical place for expansion.

The 2007 Integrated Plan of the College of Arts and Science calls for an expansion of Aboriginal scholarship (Theme 3), including the development of new programs. The proposed graduate program, while not focused exclusively on Aboriginal people, will address this call in several ways. Several of the anthropologists to be involved have active research programs in Aboriginal and Indigenous health issues, both in Canada and internationally. Further, several faculty in the Archaeology program also have expertise in issues of Aboriginal health, from the perspective of paleopathology for instance. One of the new positions in cultural anthropology specifically targets Aboriginal research. The proposed program will bring together these resources in a manner that will attract and promote continued scholarship in the area of Aboriginal health research, and thus reinforce another of the College's goals in its integrated plan, the creation of a dynamic environment for scholarship and research (Theme 4). The College plan specifically envisioned the creation of a graduate program with a medical anthropology stream during this planning cycle, and the recruitment of a new faculty member in this area. (P. 75).

4. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

Goals of the Proposed Graduate Program

- 1. To provide a leading edge, focused graduate program in select areas or streams within Anthropology*
- 2. To promote new scholarship in the domains of medical anthropology*
- 3. To train the next generation of students in this field*
- 4. To provide a mechanism for the increased participation of anthropologists on campus in graduate level anthropology education*
- 5. to provide a baseline for the development of additional streams or foci in Anthropology*
- 6. To enhance the University of Saskatchewan's reputation in the field of Anthropology and to establish it as a leading centre in culture and health research*

What is Medical Anthropology?

Medical anthropology (sometimes referred to as the Anthropology of Health) remains one of the fastest growing sub-fields of Anthropology in North America. Medical anthropology, in general terms, is the cross-cultural study of health, illness, and health systems. It is unique in that it places central importance on the role of culture in understanding human suffering, response to illness, and resilience, and this sets it apart from cognate fields like medical sociology, health psychology, or community health. While contemporary community and public health discourse often now includes culture as a "health determinant," medical anthropology brings to the discussion the most advanced theoretical development of the concept of culture and its role in health, and the complex cross-cultural methods required to properly study it.

The Society for Medical Anthropology (the largest in the world) describes medical anthropology as follows:

Medical Anthropology is a subfield of anthropology that draws upon social, cultural, biological, and linguistic anthropology to better understand those factors which influence health and well being (broadly defined), the experience and distribution of illness, the prevention and treatment of sickness, healing processes, the social relations of therapy management, and the cultural importance and utilization of pluralistic medical systems. The discipline of medical anthropology draws upon many different theoretical approaches. It is as attentive to popular health culture as bioscientific epidemiology, and the social construction of knowledge and politics of science as scientific discovery and hypothesis testing. Medical anthropologists examine how the health of individuals, larger social formations, and the environment are affected by interrelationships between humans and other species; cultural norms and social institutions; micro and macro politics; and forces of globalization as each of these affects local worlds.

Medical anthropologists study such issues as:

- Health ramifications of ecological "adaptation and maladaptation"
- Popular health culture and domestic health care practices
- Local interpretations of bodily processes
- Changing body projects and valued bodily attributes
- Perceptions of risk, vulnerability and responsibility for illness and health care
- Risk and protective dimensions of human behavior, cultural norms and social institutions
- Preventative health and harm reduction practices
- The experience of illness and the social relations of sickness
- The range of factors driving health, nutrition and health care transitions
- Ethnomedicine, pluralistic healing modalities, and healing processes
- The social organization of clinical interactions
- The cultural and historical conditions shaping medical practices and policies
- Medical practices in the context of modernity, colonial, and post-colonial social formations
- The use and interpretation of pharmaceuticals and forms of biotechnology
- The commercialization and commodification of health and medicine
- Disease distribution and health disparity
- Differential use and availability of government and private health care resources
- The political economy of health care provision.
- The political ecology of infectious and vector borne diseases, chronic diseases and states of malnutrition, and violence
- The possibilities for a critically engaged yet clinically relevant application of anthropology

(www.medanthro.net/definition.html]; accessed September 18, 2008).

Strengths of the New Program

From the anthropological perspective, the program will demonstrate specific strengths in the following areas:

- Aboriginal and Indigenous peoples' health
- Global health
- Gender and health
- Disability
- Mental health
- Infectious diseases
- Environmental health
- Applied methodologies
- Ethnography
- Urban and complex research contexts

Research interests will include local, national, and international issues. Intersection with other Arts and Science initiatives, such as the BAScHealth Studies program, and University initiatives, such as the School of Public Health and the Global Health Research Group, will prove to be of mutual benefit, and aid in the creation of nationally recognized center for socio-cultural health research at the University of Saskatchewan. There have already been preliminary discussions with representatives from the School of Public Health and the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology regarding possible future collaborations and joint degrees programs.

Degree Requirements

The MA program will be a two year program, requiring at least 12 credit units of coursework (a common load in North American Anthropology MA programs), plus a thesis based on original research. Applicants will be assessed on an individual basis and adjustments made to coursework requirements as required.

The program has, as its base, two core courses in Anthropological theory and methods. These courses are generic in the sense that they do not focus directly on the specialization of medical anthropology, and are typical of all graduate programs in Anthropology. They are required courses for all students. These courses provide the baseline for new streams to be developed in future years.

In addition to the two required core courses, one specialist course in medical anthropology, and one elective (possibly chosen in an allied field) round out the coursework requirement for the medical anthropology stream, providing both a solid foundational structure in anthropological theory and methods and intensive specialization in medical anthropology.

Required coursework will include the following.

Core Courses:

ANTH 801.3: Contemporary Anthropological Theory

ANTH 802.3: Ethnographic Theory and Method

Medical Anthropology Stream:

ANTH 804.3: Medical Anthropology

3 credit unit elective (in either ANTH or an allied field)

The additional 3 credit unit elective will be chosen in consultation with the student's supervisory committee. Possible elective courses will include:

ARCH 471.3: Forensic Anthropology

ARCH 472.3: Paleopathology

PSY 801.3: Culture, Mental Health and Illness

PSY 803.3: Culture and Human Development

PSY 809.3: Qualitative Research

SOC 820.3: Medical Sociology

CHEP 800.3: Epidemiology 1

CHEP 802.3: Community Health Research Methods

CHEP 804.3: Community Health Issues

NURS 893.3: Qualitative Research Methods

These recommended courses will be expanded to include appropriate new courses that will be formalized in other programs (such as in the School of Public Health).

In addition, students will be required to complete GSR 960 and 961, and ANTH 990 and 994.

The goal of the program is to provide a high quality education in Anthropology, with a specialization in medical anthropology and qualitative ethnographic methodology, that will position the student for both continued graduate education or employment outside academe. The required coursework will contribute to this in several ways: it will orient the student to major theoretical developments in the broader field of anthropology; it will train the student in contemporary ethnographic research methods (the signature methodology of the discipline of Anthropology); it will provide a leading edge education in the field of medical anthropology; and it will expose the student to important, contemporary ethical issues in research and related human service capacities.

New Courses to be Developed for this Program

Three new ANTH courses have been developed in conjunction with this proposal. (The course descriptions are developed in greater detail in the specific course proposals).

ANTH 801: Contemporary Anthropological Theory

This seminar course will draw upon the works of major contributors in Anthropology and related fields, with an emphasis on culture theory.

ANTH 802.3: Ethnographic Theory and Method

This course will orient the student toward both the theoretical and methodological potentialities of ethnography as the central means by which anthropologists collect data and disseminate their results.

ANTH 804.3: Medical Anthropology

This course will survey the major contributors to the field of Medical Anthropology, organized by thematic area of study, such as: critical Medical Anthropology; clinically applied Medical Anthropology; embodiment; interpretive Medical Anthropology.

These courses will be taught as part of the normal teaching load of faculty, and not on an overload basis.

Admission Criteria

Normally, students will be expected to have an Honours degree in Anthropology. However, the program structure will accommodate students from other backgrounds. Students with a background in health studies, including those students in the new BAsC in Health Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, will be considered, as will students from Sociology, Psychology, Community Health, Nursing and Medicine, and other fields where an appropriate academic background can be established.

Program Assessment

Assessment of the program will follow the guidelines for Graduate Program Review as outlined in "A Framework for Assessment: Beyond Systematic Program Review," approved by University Council and the Board of Governors in 2008. Nonetheless, the program will be successful if, within three years of implementation, an enrolment of at least five students has been attained, at least one has graduated with the M.A. degree, and overall application numbers have increased from year to year.

Calendar Entry:

Note: the items in italics are instructional and should be deleted prior to submission

1. List your Department Name: Archaeology and Anthropology
2. List of New Degree(s) Offered: MA
(for eg, M.A., M.Sc., M.Ed., Ph.D. and a brief description).

The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology offers a graduate program leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology. Currently, one stream, in medical anthropology, is available to prospective students. Students wishing to register in the program should consult with the Head of the Department and the graduate advisor as early as possible in advance of the regular academic session. The graduate program has been designed to provide some flexibility in the choice of courses and research topics within the capacity of the department's resources. An applicant should hold a B.A. Honours or equivalent degree in Anthropology. Students with Honours degrees in other disciplines are encouraged to apply, but they may be required to do qualifying or additional course work.

3. Admission Qualifications: B.A Honours or equivalent in Anthropology or related social or health science.

(i.e., degrees applicants must hold, field examinations, etc.)

4. Total Minimum Credit Units Required: fill in appropriate areas

Masters: 12 credit units, including ANTH 990, ANTH 994, GSR 960, GSR 961

4.1 Core Courses: 9 credit units, including ANTH 801.3, ANTH 802.3, ANTH 803.3; ANTH 990, ANTH 994; GSR 960, GSR 961

4.2 Exam Requirements: Oral thesis defense.

4.3 Other

5. Residency Requirements: Masters: 12 months

6. Departmental Website Address: <http://artsandscience.usask.ca/archanth/>

Please refer to the General Section of the Calendar for CGSR program requirements and policies

5. RESOURCES

Faculty to be Involved:

The home base for this program, the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, currently consists of seven full-time faculty plus one appointed to STM, with two additional permanent positions to be filled July 1, 2009 in the areas of medical and environmental anthropology. In addition, applications to appoint three new joint members

(one from Psychology, and two from Religion and Culture), and seven new associate members, are pending, and they will join several current part-time, associate and adjunct members. The new associate member appointments correspond to this proposal (see below). *The College has also made a commitment to transfer both anthropology positions currently in Religion and Culture to the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology when they become vacant, which will further increase the complement of cultural anthropologists in the latter department.*

Overall, effective July 1, 2009, there will be four faculty appointed to the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology with a specialization in medical anthropology from the cultural perspective, and two with a specialization in medical anthropology from a biological perspective. There will also be two other medical anthropologists, one medical geographer, and two cultural anthropologists involved as Associate members. The overall department complement (including full-time, part-time, joint, associate and adjunct members) provides the sufficient infrastructural and faculty resources to offer courses, advise students, and complete supervisory committees, and manage the graduate program. The interdisciplinarity within the department, representing three of the four major sub-fields in anthropology and both science and social science programs, is one of its strengths.

The roles of the Associate members in this program will include:

- Graduate supervision where appropriate
- Service on supervisory committees
- Participation in ANTH 990 and other seminars
- Occasional guest lectures
- Occasional offerings of ANTH courses (as negotiated)

Current Faculty of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology (with specializations) are as follows (* denotes training and/or research in an area related to medical anthropology).

Full Time Faculty:

- **Pamela Downe***, PhD (York University). Associate Professor. Medical anthropology, gender and health, critical interpretive analysis of infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, health repercussions of violence, globalization
- **Margaret Kennedy** (Ph.D. Calgary) Associate Professor Historical archaeology, contact and pre-contact northwestern plains archaeology, archaeology of trade
- **Angela Lieverse*** (Ph.D. Cornell 2005) Assistant Professor Bioarchaeology, skeletal biology, paleopathology, human taphonomy, dental anthropology, ancient hunter-gatherers, Siberia
- **Alison D. Maingon** (Ph.D. British Columbia) Associate Professor. Greek archaeology (Bronze Age and Archaic), Greek and Roman Art and Architecture, Women in Antiquity, Greek Lyric Poetry
- **David Meyer** (Ph.D. McMaster) Associate Professor. Archaeology, cultural anthropology, cultural resource management, pottery analysis, northern plains, boreal forest, Northern Algonquians.
Undergraduate Advisor

- **Elizabeth Robertson** (Ph.D. Calgary) Assistant Professor. Geoarchaeology, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, archaeometry, artifact conservation, Northern Plains
- **Ernest G. Walker*** (Ph.D. Texas) Professor. Biological anthropology, human osteology, human anatomy, forensic anthropology, archaeology, faunal analysis, cultural resource management, northern plains.
- **New faculty position** in medical anthropology* (effective July 1, 2009)
- **New faculty position** in environmental anthropology (effective July 1, 2009)

Joint Faculty (pending):

- **Alexander M. Ervin*** (Ph.D. Illinois). Professor (Joint with Religion and Culture). Applied anthropology; medical anthropology; environmental anthropology.
- **Satya Sharma** (M.A. Cornell). Associate Professor (Joint with Religion and Culture). Business and industrial anthropology, economic anthropology, political and legal anthropology, South Asia and South Asian diaspora, theory.
- **James B. Waldram*** (PhD Connecticut) Professor (Joint with Psychology). Medical, psychological and psychiatric anthropology; cultural aspects of mental health and illness; anthropology of therapeutic intervention; Indigenous people; Canada; Belize.

Retired Faculty:

- **Urve Linnamae** (Ph.D. Calgary)
Associate Professor: archaeology, culture history, Arctic, northeastern North America and Saskatchewan, historic archaeology.

Associate Faculty Members (*italics denote new appointments pending, corresponding to this proposal; asterisks denote training in medical anthropology*):

- **Sylvia Abonyi***, (*Ph.D. McMaster University*). *Dept of Community Health and Epidemiology. Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Health. Medical and health anthropology; cultural determinants of population health; Indigenous people; Canada and Hungary*
- **Dr. Alec E. Aitken** (Ph.D. McMaster)
Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Saskatchewan
- **Michel Desjardins***, (*Ph. D. Montréal*) *Assistant professor, Department of Psychology . Medical Anthropology and Disability Studies; cultural study of the altered; politico-symbolic aspects of inclusion and exclusion processes; sexuality, reproduction and parenthood of people with an intellectual disability or brain injury*
- **Christopher M. Foley** (Ph.D. McMaster) Associate Professor, STM.
- **Paul Hackett** (*Ph.D. Manitoba*) *Assistant Professor, Department of Geography. Medical Geography; Aboriginal Health; Historical Epidemiology*

- **Simonne Horwitz** (DPhil Oxford) Assistant Professor, Department of History. Sub-Saharan African history; medical history; history of hospitals; nursing history
- **Natalia Khanenko-Friesen** (Ph.D. Toronto). Associate Professor, STM. Cultural anthropology; cultures of central and Eastern Europe; Oral tradition.
- **David Natcher** (Ph.D. Alberta) Associate Professor. Department of Bioresource Policy, Business & Economics. Human and Political Ecology, Natural Resource Management, Applied Anthropology, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Environmental Anthropology, Social Forestry and Common-property theory
- **Dr. Lawrence W. Martz** (Ph.D. Saskatchewan) Professor, Department of Geography, University of Saskatchewan
- **John R. Porter** (Ph.D. Toronto) Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Saskatchewan
- **Joe Schnurr*** (M.D., MA, Saskatchewan). Clinical Associate, College of Medicine. Medical Anthropology; Complementary and alternative medicine.
- **William A. Waiser** (Ph.D. Saskatchewan) Professor, Department of History, University of Saskatchewan

The above faculty complement will ensure that graduate students in the program have access to relevant courses, resources, and expertise across both the cultural and biological domains that constitute contemporary medical anthropology.

The new undergraduate program in Anthropology, approved in the spring of 2008, was predicated on the reduction of teaching loads among core research intensive faculty to a maximum of 12 cus, to facilitate research and the teaching requirements of the graduate program. So there will be no impact on the ability to offer a full undergraduate curriculum. The Dean of Arts and Science has authorized the hiring of two new positions in Anthropology, including one in medical Anthropology and another in environmental anthropology. Recruitment is currently underway, and the new faculty should be in place effective July 1, 2009.

The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology has sufficient clerical support for this program. A second secretarial position was added when the Anthropology and Archaeology programs were amalgamated into a new department on July 1, 2008.

Office space will be required for the two faculty members being hired for 2009-10. Such space will be available in the Archaeology Building, and Arts and Science will ensure that new hires have adequate office and research space, as requested.

There will be a need for an ethnography and qualitative data laboratory, for data storage and analysis. This requirement can be accommodated within the current space allocation of the Department in the Archaeology Building. There are no equipment needs anticipated beyond the usual office start-up equipment for new faculty.

The library resources are sufficient. The library has electronic subscriptions to all major anthropology journals, including those dedicated to Medical Anthropology. There has been consultation with the librarian (S. Wolff) responsible for the Anthropology collection.

6. RELATIONSHIPS AND IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

This program will have a very positive impact on faculty and students in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. Archaeology students will benefit from the graduate level courses in cultural and medical anthropology that will be offered. Faculty will benefit from the engagement with like-minded scholars interested in interdisciplinary approaches to the study of human health through time. Departmental seminars and colloquia will be expanded to accommodate the new program, enhancing the scholarly vibrancy of the new unit and exposing students and faculty to research across the many subfields of the discipline.

Preliminary discussions have been held with the former acting director of the School of Public Health and the graduate chair of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, regarding the future development of joint graduate programs. These discussions are on-going. Students in these programs will benefit from access to the courses and faculty in medical anthropology, and medical anthropology students will benefit from the courses and faculty in these programs.

The Culture and Human Development (CHD) program, in the Department of Psychology, provides an interdisciplinary graduate program that includes two of the medical anthropologists involved in this proposal (Desjardins and Waldram). Medical anthropology students will have access to the courses offered in the CHD program, and to its weekly seminar series. All three courses to be developed for the medical anthropology program will be attractive to CHD students as well. Some CHD faculty will be positioned to contribute to supervisory committees in Anthropology and vice versa.

Graduate students in Nursing (with its emphasis on diversity in the healing professions), Community Health and Epidemiology, Sociology (Medical Sociology), and Geography (Medical Geography) will find the core medical anthropology seminar to be especially valuable.

All pending joint members of the Department have approved the proposal, and all proposed Associate members have approved the terms of their associate memberships as outlined above. The proposal was approved by the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology in fall 2008.

The following departments have been provided with a copy of this proposal (February 4, 2009), and given the opportunity to respond: Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Native Studies, Community Health and Epidemiology, as well as the School for Public Health. As of the date of submission, none had chosen to respond

Consultation has also occurred with Vice-Dean Harley Dickenson and Dean Jo-Anne Dillon, of Arts and Science, and Associate Dean Trever Crowe of CGSR, at various stages of proposal development. Notification of college approval is appended.

Appropriate consultation with the Library and the registrar (see attached) has also been undertaken.

7. BUDGET

After consultation with Barb Gillis, Director of Finance and Administration for the College of Arts and Science, it has been determined that no budget allocations within the College will change in addition to those already mentioned in section 5.

New courses: MA in Anthropology

ANTH 801.3 Contemporary Anthropological Theory

Prerequisite: Admission to graduate program in Anthropology or permission of instructor

This seminar course will survey and critically assess the works of major contributors to Anthropological theory, with an emphasis on contemporary culture theory.

ANTH 802.3 Ethnographic Theory and Method

Prerequisite: Admission to graduate program in Anthropology or permission of instructor

This course will orient the student toward both the theoretical and methodological potentialities of ethnography as the central means by which anthropologists collect data and disseminate their results. The course examines the inter-relationship of reading, doing and writing ethnography.

ANTH 804.3 Medical Anthropology

Prerequisite: Admission to graduate program in Anthropology or permission of instructor

This seminar course will survey the theoretical and conceptual trends within the field of medical anthropology, spanning biocultural, clinical, ecological, political economic and critical interpretive approaches. The substantive areas of focus include reproductive health, infectious disease, disability, mental illness, health systems, and healing.

Subject: RE: Medical anthropology graduate students in CHEP classes
From: "Muhajarine, Nazeem" <nam128@campus.usask.ca>
Date: Fri, 27 Mar 2009 20:18:49 -0600
To: Sylvia Abonyi <sylvia.abonyi@usask.ca>, James Waldram <j.waldram@usask.ca>
CC: Anne Leis <anne.leis@usask.ca>

Hello Jim,

I wanted to drop a quick note and second Sylvia's message. We have always had graduate students from many disciplines and programs across campus taking our courses. We welcome this interest and to the best of our ability try to accommodate students needs. We believe that students from multiple disciplines taking courses together only enhances the interdisciplinary learning experiences.

Best,

Nazeem

From: Sylvia Abonyi [mailto:sylvia.abonyi@usask.ca]
Sent: Fri 27/03/2009 9:55 AM
To: 'James Waldram'
Cc: Muhajarine, Nazeem; 'Anne Leis'
Subject: Medical anthropology graduate students in CHEP classes

Hello Jim,
The Department of Community Health and Epidemiology welcomes graduate students from across the University of Saskatchewan campus into our graduate courses. We are an interdisciplinary Department and actively include interdisciplinary perspectives and experiences in our courses. Medical anthropology graduate students would be a welcome addition. Like other graduate students from outside the Department, we would simply expect them to consult our course instructors on an individual basis to determine academic preparedness, eligibility, and space.

Best Wishes,
Sylvia

Sylvia Abonyi, Ph.D.
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Associate Professor/ Graduate Program Chair
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Courier Address:
SPHERU
Room 2715
103 Hospital Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W8
Canada

Subject: GTF support memo

From: Harley Dickinson <harley.dickinson@usask.ca>

Date: Mon, 06 Apr 2009 17:58:48 -0600

To: David Meyer <david.meyer@usask.ca>, James Waldram <j.waldram@usask.ca>

CC: Jo-Anne Dillon <jo-anne.dillon@artsandscience.usask.ca>

Dear David and Jim,

The College of Arts & Sciences recognizes that GTFs are one important source of funding for graduate programs. For the past two years, in addition to the GTF resources allocated to the Department of Archaeology & Anthropology based on its performance the Division of Social Sciences has provided it with additional GTF resources to support its developing graduate programs. Depending on the availability of resources, the Division will continue this support. The Division will also work with the Department and others to seek new additional resources to support the proposed Anthropology graduate program.

Harley Dickinson
Vice Dean, Social Sciences
College of Arts & Science
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5
Tel: 306 966-4275
harley.dickinson@usask.ca

Memo

April 15, 2009

To: John McCannon, Chair, MA Committee, CGSR

From: Jim Waldram, Psychology

Cc Muriel Miller, Trever Crowe, CGST

Re: Response to the MA Committee on Proposed Anthropology graduate program

I will not be able to attend the April meeting of the MA committee, as I will be out of the country at that time undertaking research in Belize. Therefore I am submitting this written response to the issues raised by the committee as communicated to me.

1. Although detailed course summaries were included with the proposal, "New Course Proposal" forms were not. These need to be submitted (see the link provided below). In particular, we need to know what prerequisites the new courses might require. In addition, we need information about prerequisites for the existing courses you list as possible electives. Without that information, it is difficult for our committee to determine whether incoming students will have the necessary background to enter or succeed in those courses.
 - i. Please submit course proposal forms for ANTH 801, ANTH 802 & ANTH 804 (see Form GSR 400.1 http://www.usask.ca/cgsr/prospective_students/forms.php)

These are attached. See point 2 below re: electives.

2. Also in connection with the elective courses, it would be useful to have some indication of how willing other departments will be to allow Anthropology students into graduate and upper-level courses, especially if their enrolments are restricted. Might there be a problem with getting non-majors into some of these courses?

The electives identified are "recommended" only to demonstrate the range of possible current courses relevant to a medical anthropology graduate program. The proposal has been altered to change "recommended" to "possible," to avoid confusion. It would be inappropriate to seek a priori agreements from other departments to accept Anthropology students carte blanche. Rather, where a suitable elective is identified, the student will consult with the instructor to determine admission status. This is the process we use quite effectively in the Culture and Human Development program in Psychology (of which I am Chair), in which students are required to take at least 3 cus from another

discipline/department. The option to take individualized reading courses in Anthropology will also exist. So there should be no problem determining electives.

Nonetheless, attached is an email from Sylvia Abonyi and Nazeem Muhajarine indicating a willingness to accept Anthropology graduate students into CH&E courses (students with undergraduate Anthropology degrees are already in the CH&E graduate program, a program designed to accept students from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds). As the Chair of the Culture and Human Development program, I can likewise assure the committee that Anthropology students will have access to PSY 801, PSY 803, and PSY 809, which are key courses in our program. The ARCH courses exist within the same department of Archaeology and Anthropology as the Anthropology graduate program, and a similar process will be followed of vetting interested students to determine suitability for the courses identified within the proposal. The Committee should be reassured that not only are elective placements likely, but that the best interests of the student will be taken to heart in terms of these placements. Students will not be enrolled in courses where they lack the necessary background to be successful.

3. There was some thought that ANTH 801 and ANTH 802 are perhaps too generic to form the core (half the coursework) for what appears to be a highly specialized degree—even allowing for the department’s wish to add a second stream in environmental anthropology if and when the opportunity presents itself. There were also concerns that much of the material in both courses, but especially ANTH 802, would be familiar to anyone with an undergraduate degree in cultural anthropology. It would be useful to see an explicit comparison between your course structure and that of similar programs elsewhere: i.e., graduate degrees geared toward narrow subspecialization within the subfield of cultural anthropology. Might the two courses be combined into a single 3-cu course, with another 3 credit units going toward another course specially focused on medical anthropology? Or might the content of both courses somehow be altered to reflect more closely the medical subspecialty?

As noted in the proposal, theory and method courses usually form the core of Anthropology graduate training. I am both the architect of the current undergraduate Anthropology program and the Chair of the Anthropology program, and I assure you that these courses are suitably sophisticated enough in comparison to undergraduate offerings. In fact, they are rather unique in focus. ANTH 801’s concentration on theorizing culture and ANTH 802’s combination of theory and practice in ethnography are unique and leading edge.

As also noted in the proposal, the intent here is to provide two core courses around which streams can be built. The first stream is medical. It would be inappropriate to focus these courses on medical, however, as they would not serve students in other, future streams.

I have attached an example from Waterloo, where there is a MA program in Public Issues Anthropology. You can see that they require core courses in both theory and methods, plus

two additional courses in the area of specialization. However, I wish the committee to appreciate that the goal in this proposal is not to mimic but to lead, to provide a unique program.

4. The grade allowed for participation in ANTH 801 and 802 is higher than for most courses. Typically, grades assigned to course participation is approximately 10% of the course grade. Please provide detailed clarification of how the participation grade will be determined.

I am not sure what “typically” means here, or to what policy this is in reference. This is not my experience. In my graduate courses in Psychology, I typically assign 20% to participation. These courses are seminars, after all, built around intense reading and discussion. It would be unfair to have a lower grade attribution given the amount of effort that this part of the courses requires.

The following expanded explanation for evaluation of this component will be added to all course outlines:

Class participation: A significant component of the course will involve discussion of readings and presentations. You must come prepared each class to engage in this discussion. The instructor will randomly call upon students to lead off discussions. Simple attendance is inadequate. These marks will be earned if you consistently offer insightful commentary based on thorough preparation and engagement; lack of preparation or participation will result in a low grade. Most students would benefit from preparing in advance some ideas that they would like to offer. Occasional quizzes on readings may be used, and the results factored into the grade for participation, if the instructor senses a general lack of preparation by the class. Respectful exchange of ideas is expected.

**** In all cases where readings are discussed and/or presented, the instructor looks specifically for:**

- Ability to identify, comprehend, and utilize key concepts
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- Critical insight

5. Will graduating students receive an MA in “anthropology”? Or in “medical anthropology”?

As noted in the proposal, students will enrol in an “Anthropology” program and will receive an MA in “Anthropology.”

6. The list of associated faculty members (pp. 11-13) contains at least two errors related to academic rank or doctoral affiliation. Please confirm and correct all of these data.

This information was obtained from departmental web-sites. It has been corrected where possible. The key issue is their involvement as Associate members.

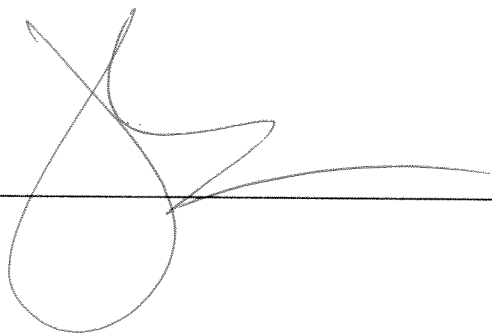
7. It remains unclear as to how this program intends to compete for scholarship funding. At present Archaeology is in the “devolved” funding pool. Will Anthropology students all share the same funding pool or will they apply to the non-devolved central competition? Has this been discussed with the CGSR Scholarships and Awards Officer, Ms. Heather Lukey?

The program will accept self-funded students. In addition, for the first three years of the program Anthropology graduate students will seek funding from the non-devolved scholarship fund of CGSR. This will reduce the impact on the current devolved funding for the Archaeology graduate program. At the end of the three years we will assess funding needs for both programs as a whole, and revise the departments funding protocol so that both programs fall within the devolved program. Consultation with CGSR will, of course, be essential in this process. Finally, we will request from the College of Arts and Science an increase in GTF funding.

8. Finally, the committee would like to know more about the proposed administrative structure within the department. For example, will the Archaeology graduate secretary also act as the new program’s graduate secretary? Will there be a single graduate chair for the department, and coordinators for each program, as in psychology? Or will there be separate graduate chairs?

The submission attached to this proposal from the Dean of Arts and Sciences indicates that a second secretary (Full-time) was added to the department. This will provide sufficient human resources to manage the proposed graduate program along with the other programs and initiatives in the department. In light of this new resource, the organization of the main office is under discussion. It has been agreed that there will be one graduate chair for all programs in the department.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these issues.





UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

College of Graduate Studies and Research

MEMORANDUM

To: Cathie Fornssler, Secretary
Academic Programs Committee of University Council

From: Trever Crowe, Associate Dean
College of Graduate Studies and Research

Copies: Jim Waldram, Psychology

Date: May 07, 2009

Re: Graduate Program: Master of Arts in Anthropology

Consistent with the agreement between the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) and the Academic Programs Committee (APC) of Council, attached is a report that describes the review of the proposed Master of Arts in Anthropology, housed in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. The Academic Programs Committee is well aware of the changes that have occurred on campus with regards to the discipline of Anthropology. As part of the approval for the revised undergraduate program approximately 1 year ago, the proponents were challenged to bring forward a new graduate program. The attached program is in response to that request. I, personally, and the College of Graduate Studies and Research, generally, are excited about this new program and commend the proponents for all the hard work. If questions arise during the review by APC, representatives from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and I would be happy to respond.

Executive Summary

Background: Since 2005, the University Council has been concerned about the viability and long-term sustainability of the Anthropology programming on campus. In response to the concerns raised in 2005, an ad hoc committee of anthropologists developed a new undergraduate program that was ultimately approved by Council in spring of 2008. At the time of approval, the Academic Programs Committee instructed the proponents to consider the development of a new graduate program.

An important element in the success of the new anthropology programming was the amalgamation of the Anthropology and Archaeology programs into a new department (Archaeology and Anthropology) commencing July 1, 2008, which provided the necessary resources and disciplinary synergies for success. This new configuration has established the infrastructural, resource and programmatic baseline for a new graduate program that would both enhance research activities and the student experience at the University.

Presently, there are eight medical anthropologists at the U of S, six of whom approach the topic from the perspective of cultural anthropology, and two from the perspective of biological anthropology. With the addition of a new position in medical anthropology the U of S will arguably have as many if not more medical anthropologists than any other university in Canada. The current proposal seeks to seize on this opportunity to create a vibrant graduate program that will be unique in the country. A national reputation will accrue almost instantaneously with the implementation of this proposal, due not only to this uniqueness but also to the strong reputation of the involved faculty.

Degree Requirements: The proposed degree is a thesis-based program that will require at least 12 credit units of coursework. Proponents envision a number of specialization streams within the graduate degree. At the heart of the program are two core courses (required by all students, regardless of the stream) in Anthropological theory and methods. The current proposal is to develop a stream in medical anthropology, and in addition to the two required core courses, one specialist course in medical anthropology, and one elective (possibly chosen in an allied field) round out the coursework. This suite of course is expected to provide both a solid foundational structure in anthropological theory and methods and intensive specialization in medical anthropology.

The required (core) coursework will include:

ANTH 801.3: Contemporary Anthropological Theory (*new course*) and

ANTH 802.3: Ethnographic Theory and Method (*new course*)

The specialist course in medical anthropology is ANTH 804.3: Medical Anthropology (*new course*). The additional 3-cu elective will be chosen in consultation with the student's supervisory committee.

Admission Criteria: Students entering the program will have an Honours degree in Anthropology or may have a variety of other related backgrounds. Students with a background in health studies, including those students in the new BAsC in Health Studies at the University of Saskatchewan, will be considered, as will students from Sociology, Psychology, Community Health and Epidemiology, Nursing and Medicine, and other cognate fields.

Resources: The program will be housed within the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, which currently consists of seven full-time faculty plus one appointed to STM. Two additional permanent positions will be filled July 1, 2009 in the areas of medical and environmental anthropology. There are also a number of joint members and associate members who will participate in the program. Effective July 1, 2009, there will be four faculty appointed to the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology with a specialization in medical anthropology from the cultural perspective, and two with a specialization in medical anthropology from a biological perspective. There will also be two other medical anthropologists, one medical geographer, and two cultural anthropologists involved as Associate members. The overall department complement (including full-time, part-time, joint, associate and adjunct members) provides the sufficient infrastructural and faculty resources to offer courses, advise students, and complete supervisory committees, and manage the graduate program. The Department of Archaeology and Anthropology has sufficient clerical support for this program. A second secretarial position was added when the Anthropology and Archaeology programs were amalgamated into a new department on July 1, 2008. No additional resources, other than those already committed and re-assigned within the college will be required.

Program Review

The Master's Committee reviewed the program proposal in depth. Resulting from the review, the committee assembled a number of questions (listed below) for the proponents. Responses from Professor Jim Waldram follow each question (text in italic font):

1. Although detailed course summaries were included with the proposal, "New Course Proposal" forms were not. These need to be submitted (see the link provided below). In particular, we need to know what prerequisites the new courses might require. In addition, we need information about prerequisites for the existing courses you list as possible electives. Without that information, it is difficult for our committee to determine whether incoming students will have the necessary background to enter or succeed in those courses.
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These are attached. See point 2 below re: electives.

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As also noted in the proposal, the intent here is to provide two core courses around which streams can be built. The first stream is medical. It would be inappropriate to focus these courses on medical, however, as they would not serve students in other, future streams.

I have attached an example from Waterloo, where there is a MA program in Public Issues Anthropology. You can see that they require core courses in both theory and methods, plus two additional courses in the area of specialization. However, I wish the committee to appreciate that the goal in this proposal is not to mimic but to lead, to provide a unique program.

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- 7) It remains unclear as to how this program intends to compete for scholarship funding. At present Archaeology is in the “devolved” funding pool. Will Anthropology students all share the same funding pool or will they apply to the non-devolved central competition? Has this been discussed with the CGSR Scholarships and Awards Officer, Ms. Heather Lukey?

The program will accept self-funded students. In addition, for the first three years of the program Anthropology graduate students will seek funding from the non-devolved scholarship fund of CGSR. This will reduce the impact on the current devolved funding for the Archaeology graduate program. At the end of the three years we will assess funding needs for both programs as a whole, and revise the departments funding protocol so that both programs fall within the devolved program. Consultation with CGSR will, of course, be essential in this process. Finally, we will request from the College of Arts and Science an increase in GTF funding.

I have consulted with Trever Crowe, Harley Dickenson and Margaret Kennedy (Arch and Anth grad chair).

- 8) Finally, the committee would like to know more about the proposed administrative structure within the department. For example, will the Archaeology graduate secretary also act as the new program's graduate secretary? Will there be a single graduate chair for the department, and coordinators for each program, as in psychology? Or will there be separate graduate chairs?

The submission attached to this proposal from the Dean of Arts and Sciences indicates that a second secretary (Full-time) was added to the department. This will provide sufficient human resources to manage the proposed graduate program along with the other programs and initiatives in the department. In light of this new resource, the organization of the main office is under discussion. It has been agreed that there will be one graduate chair for all programs in the department.

Review of MA Anthropology graduate program proposal

In July 2008, there was a merger of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology to form a new Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. This merger was a response to systematic program review in Anthropology. Part of the driving force for the realignment was to enhance research activities in Anthropology. The proposed program is one that was “promised” to APC and the University Council following approval of the new Department.

Program Characteristics

It is a two year MA in Anthropology, with 12 cu of course work (seminar-type courses) plus a research thesis. The course label is to be a MA (Anthropology) although the program is within a sub-specialty – ‘medical’ anthropology. The program may add other “streams” (e.g. environmental anthropology), if or when Faculty and resources become available. Medical anthropology is differentiated from other disciplines in placing a central importance on the role of culture in understanding determinants of health as well as human suffering and responses and resilience to illness.

The program is expected to enrol about 5 students within the next three years. There are three new graduate courses for this program, which will also be available to graduate students in cognate disciplines.

Program justification

The main rationale for the program appears to be primarily to take advantage of a unique concentration of Faculty with expertise in medical anthropology and biological anthropology. The University of Saskatchewan is uniquely positioned in that regard with a concentration of Health Sciences and a Medical School, all within walking distance. There is no comparable program in Saskatchewan. It is also stated that it will be the only MA-level program with a clearly articulated medical anthropology stream in the Prairies. The proposal is meeting the expectations of the University when the new Department of Archaeology and Anthropology was created. It is aimed at expanding scholarly activities in a priority area of culture and health. The proposal also addresses the University priority for an expansion of Aboriginal Scholarship, as several anthropologists participating in the proposed graduate program have active research in Aboriginal and Indigenous health issues. A stated goal of the program is to position the student for both continued graduate education and employment outside academia.

Overall, the proposed program is justified. It is not expected to be a large program but is appropriate to the mission of the University and is relevant to the Province.

Question: A “stream” is not identified on a student transcript. Would a MA (Medical Anthropology) label not be an advantage to students graduating from this program as a unique distinctive feature rather than MA (Anthropology)?

Question: One of the stated goals is to position the students for “employment outside academia”. Yet, there is no description of the types of employment opportunities that may be available for students with a MA in medical anthropology. Can the proponents of the proposal expand on potential employment opportunities for graduates?

Nature of the program

It is a graduate level program. The course work appears appropriate, with seminar type courses, requiring student to read and present critically selected literature work, along with a research paper. The grades assigned for student class participation (20-25%) for the three proposed courses were questioned by the CGSR Committee reviewing the proposal, but do not appear out of line for a graduate seminar type course. The CGSR review committee had a few questions concerning the program (course prerequisites, generic nature of core courses, and access of students from this program into cognate graduate courses) which have been largely answered. The courses appear quite demanding. By comparison, there is very little if any information as to the research thesis the students must also complete. The program admission is primarily for students majoring in Anthropology. Students from other disciplines will be considered “where an appropriate academic background can be established”.

Question: Given what appears to be demanding course work requirements, will it be possible for the students to complete a research thesis within two years?

Question: What is an expected timeline for the research thesis (i.e. selection of supervisor, thesis topic, research work and thesis writing and defence)?

Question: Would it be useful to define more clearly the admission criteria for students from disciplines other than anthropology? What would be required either for admission or as remedial work?

Relationships

It is a “stand-alone” graduate program with potential synergy with many other programs at the University (e.g. School of Public Health, Dept. of Community Health and Epidemiology, the Culture and Human Development program in the Dept. of Psychology). The program is within the expertise and administrative purview of the sponsoring unit. The Departments of Geography, Psychology, Sociology, Native Studies, Community Health and Epidemiology and the School of Public Health were sent a copy of the proposal for comments but none have responded yet, which is troubling. The Associate members are from a variety of Departments. Some preliminary discussions were held with some units regarding future developments, but this appears to be too early.

Resources

Faculty resources are in place (or will be by July 1, 2009). The graduate courses are said to be part of the normal teaching load of faculty, and not on an overload basis. Is it correct to assume that Drs Waldram and Downe (who are named as the proposed instructors for all three new graduate courses for this program have been granted reduction in undergraduate teaching responsibilities? The Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology will provide clerical support for the program. One graduate Chair in that department (already in place) will oversee all programs, including this one. Space and library resources are available. The program has yet to identify appropriate resources for graduate funding. There is no commitment from the Dept of Anthropology and Archaeology or from the CGSR to provide adequate graduate student funding.

Question: It is stated the program will accept self-funded students and seek funding from the non-devolved scholarship fund of the CGSR. By limiting admission to “self-funded students”, is the program recruiting only those than can afford it but losing potentially the best students to other jurisdictions or programs? Is the non-devolved scholarship fund from the CGSR open to “program of study” or “academic unit”? In other words, is the fact the Dept of Archaeology and Anthropology is in the “devolved” funding pool precludes seeking additional funds from the “non-devolved” pool?

Overall

This is a new graduate program. There are a sufficient number of Faculty members with active research program to support it. It proposes a “stream” in medical anthropology that provides a unique focus, in line with University strengths in priority areas (health research and aboriginal and indigenous scholarship). It is not expected to be a very large program but is likely to develop synergy with other research units. There are a number of minor issues that can be addressed easily enough. The main problem is identification of graduate financial support for students.

**Reviewer,
M. Desautels (Physiology)**