

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 18, 2001

TO: Alan R. Sweedler
Assistant Vice President, International Programs

FROM: Kathleen V. Kish
Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

SUBJECT: Report on OIP Grant 2000-2001

In accordance with the regulations governing OIP grants for international educational experiences, I attach a written report on the 2000-2001 grant awarded to a team in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures. Please let me know if and when you would like any of us to make a short presentation to relevant faculty and students. All of us stand ready to promote and support exchange programs that develop from our activities.

It has been most gratifying to work with the Office of International Programs during this grant cycle. We look forward to continuing a mutually beneficial working relationship.

Attachment

Cc: C. Ben Christensen
Gustavo Segade
Sergio Waisman

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

REPORT ON OIP GRANT FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES JULY 1, 2000-JUNE 30, 2001

Participants:

C. Ben Christensen
Kathleen V. Kish
Gustavo Segade
Sergio Waisman

Activities:

In October 2000 Department Chair Kish accompanied outgoing Translation Studies Certificate Program Director Segade and his successor Waisman to Mexicali to attend the "III Congreso Estatal de Idiomas" (Third State Language Congress) at the Escuela de Idiomas (Language School) in the Autonomous University of Baja California (henceforth, UABC). Both Segade and Waisman delivered presentations there. All three of us met with the academic leadership of the Escuela de Idiomas and joined distinguished international visitors at the UABC-sponsored luncheon (by invitation). Several of the attendees expressed interest in pursuing contacts with SDSU and followed up later by correspondence. The chief executive officer of the Language School agreed to name someone to sit on the planning committee for our development of a Ph.D. in Translation and Interpretation Studies. On April 9, 2001, the Director and the Program Adviser of the degree program in Translation Studies at the Mexicali campus of UABC participated in a meeting we had arranged to outline for the deans of the College of Arts and Letters our preliminary proposal for a joint Ph.D. The UABC representatives made it clear that their institution was fully supportive of our venture and eager to collaborate with us (and with UCSD, our other prospective partner). We have conveyed this fact to other audiences (affected SDSU and UCSD departments, the Graduate Division, Academic Affairs).

Next Steps:

The Project Description that we submitted for this grant had anticipated a series of visits to both the Mexicali and Tijuana campuses of UABC. This proved to be unnecessary, since the initial trip to Mexicali in October was sufficient to lay the groundwork for student exchanges involving the Escuela de Idiomas there. Until that arrangement was in place, it seemed unwise to expand the territory to include UABC-Tijuana, which, in the area of Translation and Interpretation Studies, is less well developed. However, we are now making plans for a face-to-face meeting with appropriate academic leaders on that campus. It has become clear to us that one obstacle for establishing the kind of student exchanges that we had envisioned, including training internships, is the requirement that the exchange involve a full load of courses. Kish has discussed this with Paul Ganster, who established SDSU's agreements with UABC; he is attempting to find a solution for this difficulty, which he surmises is widespread, not confined to our department. He has also encouraged us to begin the dialogue with UABC-Tijuana to see if innovative models for faculty and student exchanges might result.

Finally, our project team has been preparing to welcome several new faculty recruits with credentials in Translation and Interpretation Studies. These colleagues hail from Argentina, Uruguay, and Belgium; all are eager to assist in our international efforts. In addition, Christensen continues to collaborate with the Universidad de Concepcion, Chile; Kish hopes to explore exchanges with Translation/Interpretation Studies programs in Belgium; and Waisman, with OIP support, will travel to Buenos Aires in July to identify appropriate exchange partners. Segade will continue to lead the Ph.D. planning effort.