Program Review Committee Report
Asian Studies Program

Review Process

The Director of the Asian Studies Program prepared a self-study, following program review guidelines. A two-person external review team visited the campus. They met with members of the Program Review Committee (PRC), Asian Studies Program faculty members, university administrators, and Bowling Green community leaders. The PRC reviewed the self-study and the report of the external review team. A member of the PRC met with the Director of the Asian Studies Program to obtain further clarification, and the PRC met with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The observations and recommendations of the PRC are summarized in the report that follows.

Summary of the Self-Study

Mission and History

The mission of the Asian Studies Program is twofold. First, it strives to educate undergraduate students about Asia for the purpose of broadening their global perspectives, developing their applied knowledge of Asia, expanding their employment opportunities and supporting their career aspirations. Second, because approximately 50 Japanese companies have located in northwestern Ohio (four in Bowling Green alone), extensive outreach to the community is an important part of the Program’s mission.

The Asian Studies Program was founded in the College of Arts and Sciences in 1970; the College began granting the BA in Asian Studies in 1976. In the early years, the Program had a strong relationship with the University of Michigan. Originally, Japanese graduate students were hired as TAs under the supervision of a Japanese language faculty member at the University of Michigan. Later, University of Michigan graduate students were hired to teach courses. In 1984, a lecturer in Japanese was hired in the Department of German and Russian (currently GREAL).

In 1978, the Program initiated a student exchange program with one university in Japan. Since then, it has added three more: Korea (1979) and China (1989, 1990s). The second program in China (1990s) was a collaborative effort with the Department of GREAL. BGSU exchange students receive either a full fellowship (tuition, room and board, and airfare) or a tuition scholarship from a host university during their study in Japan, Korea, or China. In Japan, the host university provides tuition, and occasionally airfare, room and board. In China, the universities provide tuition, room and board. The Korean university provides
tuition. Many BGSU students participating in its exchange program have received roundtrip airfare support from the International Programs Office upon applying for its competitive travel grants for undergraduate students. Asian students who participate in the exchange program receive tuition waivers from BGSU. Since 1984, the Program has also had a faculty exchange program with Xi’an Foreign Language University in China.

Since 1988, the Program had developed and managed student internship programs with three companies in Japan and one company in Korea. Currently it offers student internship opportunities with two companies in Japan. Participating students receive free airfare, a monthly stipend, and BGSU credit hours for their six-month study and work experience in Japan. These costs are borne by the Japanese and Korean businesses.

**Description of the Asian Studies Program**

The Asian Studies Program is interdisciplinary. The curriculum focuses on history and language, with the supporting disciplines of geography, art, music, philosophy, economics, international business, ethnic studies and political science. In summer 2000, it added the following new courses: Asian Civilizations (ASIA/HIST 180), Internship (ASIA 487), Senior Project (ASIA 480) and Readings (ASIA 495). These courses, except the internship, are cross-listed with the faculty members’ home departments, but the Asian Studies Program receives the SCHs generated by these courses. Other courses related to the Program are Japanese Culture (HIST 382), Korean Civilization (HIST 385), Chinese Civilization (HIST 386), Modern China (HIST 483), Modern Japan (HIST 486), and Introduction to Asian American Studies (ETHN 130).

**Faculty Resources**

Faculty members in the Asian Studies Program are tenured in nine different departments across four BGSU colleges. They serve on a faculty advisory committee that consists of four professors, three associate professors, three assistant professors, one lecturer, one instructor and one adjunct member — a social studies teacher from Notre Dame Academy.

Because the Asian Studies Program is not a tenuring unit, all faculty associated with the program receive their primary assignments in their home units, where they are also evaluated for merit, tenure and promotion. Moreover, recruitment of new faculty depends on the faculty needs of the cooperating departments, schools and colleges.

**Graduate Assistant/ Staff Resources**

The Program does not offer a graduate program. The only faculty members who have the services of graduate assistants are those who have been assigned GAs in their home academic units. The Program also has no assigned staff, with the faculty using the services of staff in their home units. The Program Director,
who is appointed to a three-year term by the Dean of Arts & Sciences, serves without a stipend or reassigned time for administrative responsibilities.

**Physical Resources**

The rooms dedicated to the Asian Studies Program are 104 Hanna Hall and 1002 Offenhauer West, neither of which has a telephone. The Chinese Club meets in the Hanna Hall room, which is also used to store program materials. This room also houses a computer with Chinese, Japanese and Korean language capabilities, which is on loan from the History Department. The room in Offenhauer West is named for Ms. Hiroko Nakamoto, a distinguished alumna of BGSU. Ms. Nakamoto also donated the Hiroko Nakamoto Japanese tea ceremony room in the School of Art Gallery.

**Financial Resources**

The Program has an annual budget of $1,200 to cover mailing, overseas phone calls, printing, transportation and instructional support (e.g., the international and Asian film series held by the Department of GREAL and special lectures by guest speakers). Due to the generosity of patrons and program graduates, the four Foundation accounts now total approximately $170,000. Interest from these accounts is used to fund five undergraduate scholarships, community service projects such as Nakama and other special events on campus. The Program has also received grants from the Korea Foundation Support of Books and Videos and the U.S. Department of Education.

**Number of Students Served**

The Program typically has few majors, ranging from 11 in spring 1995 to five in spring 2000. These students are generally above average academically, with ACT scores between 25 and 31 and high school GPAs of approximately 3.0. The self-study notes that some students are "double majors" and they are counted in the statistics of their first majors, but not the second major. Consequently, the number of majors is thought to be higher than reflected in data provided by Institutional Research. The self-study also notes that Asian Studies has supported students in the Colleges of Business Administration, Musical Arts, and Education and Human Development by encouraging them to apply for its exchange, business internship and scholarship programs.

**Assessment**

Japanese and Chinese language competencies of the students are assessed by instructors in GREAL. The Program Director assists with these evaluations as necessary. Students who participate in the exchange programs are assessed on the basis of their transcripts, personal interviews with faculty members, and presentations they make to student groups on campus. The quality of the internship experiences is assessed on the basis of employers’ evaluations, weekly journals, project reports, interviews and presentations. The self-study indicates
that the success of the exchange and internship programs is evident in the "enthusiasm and deepened interest in Asia that students show upon their return." Success is also reflected in a high placement rate of graduates of the Program.

The Program has responded to assessment results by (a) introducing four new courses designed to provide both basic and capstone experiences for students who are interested in Asia, (b) encouraging interested students to participate in China and Korea exchange programs, (c) collaborating with GREAL faculty in writing a grant proposal for Japanese language instruction in area high schools, and (d) submitting a grant proposal to the Korea Research Foundation for Korean language instruction.

**Seven-Year Plan**

The self-study indicates that the Program plans to accomplish the following goals within the next seven years:

1) further develop the curriculum, working closely with GREAL;
2) employ a second instructor to teach Japanese (external funding);
3) increase enrollment in Chinese and hire another lecturer;
4) introduce Korean language and culture to the curriculum (external funding);
5) implement and improve ASIA 480 Senior Projects;
6) maintain the internship programs in Japan and expand them to Korea and possibly China or Taiwan;
7) maintain and expand summer workshops on Asia;
8) maintain and expand community service programs;
9) work closely with campus student organizations that are interested in Asia; and
10) promote excellence in the international education of BGSU students.

**Strengths of the Program**

1) In spite of minimal resources, the self-study notes, the Program has an excellent record of achievement associated with its foci of undergraduate education and community outreach.
2) The outreach of the Program to business and the community is exceptional.
3) The Program’s Foundation accounts totaling approximately $170,000 demonstrate the enterprising spirit of the faculty as well as the loyalty and generosity of Program graduates.
4) The loyalty and generosity of Program graduates is remarkable. An alumna, Ms. Hiroko Nakamoto, donated the Japanese tea ceremony room in the School of Art gallery as well as financial support and other valuable gifts. An alumnus, who created a company that distributes Pokémon, offered to donate up to $1,000 a year to install a satellite dish that would receive a Japanese TV cable channel in the Hiroko Nakamoto Japanese Room and in all the residence halls on campus. Another alumnus set up a scholarship fund for the Japanese language program. As a result of a donation of program graduates in Tokyo,
50 young cherry trees will be planted on the BGSU campus in the spring of 2001 as a symbol of U.S.-Japanese friendship.

**Weaknesses/Concerns of the Program**

1) The self-study reports that the Program has limited space, equipment and support staff as well as a disappointing level of administrative support.

2) The faculty are dedicated to the Program, but satisfaction of personnel needs of the Program are dependent on the needs of the faculty members' home units.

**Results of Previous Reviews**

The Program has undergone review within the College of Arts & Sciences. This is the first cycle of university-level program review for the Asian Studies Program.

**Summary of the External Report**

**Strengths Noted in the External Report**

The external review team indicated that the Asian Studies Program was valuable and should be supported and strengthened. They did not find the number of 1999-2000 majors (six) and minors (seven) to be a problem, considering the broad impact of the Program. Moreover, students who are majoring in other fields (e.g., math, geophysics, business) take advantage of the courses, the Japanese Club and the Chinese Club. Non-majors also take advantage of the internship program.

The Japanese language courses are filled and demand for additional courses is high. Increased enrollment in the Chinese language courses is expected over the next few years. The team recommended distance learning in the languages. They assumed the effectiveness of the language courses to be high.

The impact of the outreach program is remarkable, particularly given the size of the faculty and the limited support it receives from the University. The business and political connections enjoyed by the Program are impressive. Opportunities for outreach are extensive because neither the University of Michigan nor the Ohio State University is actively seeking relationships with Japanese-owned corporations in the region.

**Concerns Noted in the External Report**

The number of faculty is insufficient. A second Japanese language instructor is needed. Faculty are needed in the areas of social sciences, Korean language, and East Asian politics and society.

The financial and physical resources devoted to the Program are insufficient.
The success of the outreach activities is linked to the current director; therefore, the transition to a new director should begin now and should be carefully considered.

**Recommendations in the External Report**

1) The Program budget should be increased by $10,000 in the near future.

2) A plan should be implemented providing for an increase in the permanent personnel of the Program.

3) The physical space for the Asian Studies Program should be improved. For example, the University should increase the size of the office and improve its condition, locating it near the Nakamoto Room in Offenhauer West if possible. The office should contain a telephone, a copy machine and a fax machine. Support staff, which could be part-time student help, should be provided. The Program should consider sharing the space and staff with another small unit.

4) The Program Director should receive a stipend.

5) A second instructor in Japanese should be employed.

6) A language assessment specialist from a neighboring university (e.g., the University of Michigan or the Ohio State University) should verify the effectiveness of the language courses. If the results of the assessment are good, a new tenure-track faculty member in Japanese language and literature should be employed.

7) The Program should seek external funding for the first three years of the appointment of the tenure-track faculty member in Japanese language and literature (e.g., The Japan Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education Title VI, and The Henry Luce Foundation).

8) The Program should continue distance learning in the languages and implement distance learning in Korean and in Korea-related courses at Ohio State.

9) A professor in East Asian politics and society should be employed to complement program strengths in history.

10) Plans should begin now for the transition to a new director in 2003.

11) Administrative levels of the University should recognize, endorse and support the Asian Studies Program’s outreach initiatives.

12) The Program should work with the Development Office to determine opportunities for the University. “We believe that the top level administration
must pay more attention to the activities of the Asian Studies faculty through regular briefings and become more actively involved in its activities."

13) The Asian Studies faculty should make the program more visible to the University community and the top administration by:
   a) capitalizing on the cherry tree planting ceremony (e.g., having an "invitation only" event associated with the planting);
   b) sponsoring a high level trip to Japan by the President (with careful cultural guidance of the faculty); and
   c) strongly encouraging the President, Provost and/or Dean to attend the semi-annual dinners for U. S. and Asian business leaders (Nakama) to endorse the activity and to underscore the University's commitment to Asia.

14) The external team further noted that the small number of major and minor students is not a problem, particularly in view of the broad impact of the program.

**Supplemental Information**

In addition to reading the self-study and the report of the external review team, a member of PRC also met with the Director of the Asian Studies Program. The Director provided the following comments, which were not included in the self-study or in the external review team's report:

The preferred arrangement would be for Asian Studies and the other area studies to be divisions in a school of international studies.

The Asian Studies Program should be represented at meetings of the Council of Chairs and Directors.

The Program's web page is a primary source of information for prospective students and should be identified on all promotional literature.

**Program Review Committee Findings**

The PRC finds that the Asian Studies Program is one of BGSU's outstanding programs. It is not, however, fully appreciated. The PRC believes that recognition and support of this program would be to the considerable advantage of the University. The Program has several distinctive attributes, including high academic quality, established exchange programs with universities and businesses in three Asian countries, and attractiveness to Asian businesses locating in Northwest Ohio.

**Strengths of the Asian Studies Program**

The Program has two foci, undergraduate education and outreach, both of which are well articulated in the Program's mission statement. The Program foci
are central to the University’s mission because they promote an understanding of cultural diversity and provide students with international perspectives.

Scholarly productivity is relevant to the faculty's expertise and many of the Asian Studies faculty are productive scholars. However, because the Asian Studies Program is interdisciplinary, the specifics of faculty productivity are to be considered in connection with program review of their home departments.

The outreach of the Program in Northwest Ohio is exceptional, particularly in view of the fact that program faculty reside in academic departments to which they must dedicate significant amounts of time and energy.

Other strengths include:
• The study abroad and internship opportunities for students are excellent.
• The academic quality of the majors and minors is above average.

Weaknesses/Concerns of the Asian Studies Program

The Director recommended that all BGSU international programs should be combined into a school structure, with divisions formed of the various area studies. This structure might be preferable to the current arrangement in which the area studies programs are independent and uncoordinated. However, the PRC believes that a school structure would expand the bureaucracy and increase the expense associated with international and areas studies programs. Moreover, the time and energy spent establishing a school would be more wisely spent in continuing the academic and outreach activities of the Asian Studies Program.

Alternatively, the needs of the Asian Studies Programs could be met through the establishment of an International Programs Council. This Council would be convened by the Vice Provost for Academic Programs and would operate in a manner similar to the Deans’ Council in providing coordination and direction for international programs. Such a council could address common needs of international programs, such as the construction of a modern language learning facility, employment of additional language/literature/social science faculty (e.g., Japanese language), and the visibility of international education. With the advice of the Dean of Arts & Sciences, the PRC finds that an International Programs Council would provide the necessary support for Asian Studies and a venue for Asian Studies’ participation in a university-level organization coordinating programs with international interests, without creating unnecessary bureaucracy.

The University should provide the Asian Studies Program with additional space, equipment, and support staff. The Program is accomplishing a great deal under current arrangements and could certainly thrive with additional resources. At the very least, they need access to a telephone, a copier, a fax machine and secretarial support. The Dean of Arts & Sciences informed the PRC of his plans in the area International Studies, which will positively impact Asian Studies, and so are relevant to this report. In particular, the PRC strongly supports plans to place an International Studies office (staffed with a half-time secretary) in physical proximity to the language departments and to house Asian Studies nearby as well.
Such a physical arrangement will have a positive impact on all the programs involved. The PRC sees this as a low-cost effort with many benefits and so supports it strongly.

The Program currently has an annual operating budget of $1,200 and an additional $170,000 in Foundation accounts. The Foundation money is largely the result of strong loyalty and support from graduates of the Program. These funds are used to sponsor special lectures, cultural events, community service programs and student scholarships. The PRC is concerned that the University is not as supportive of the Asian Studies Program as its graduates and external supporters are.

Other concerns include:
- The number of majors and minors is low.
- Current financial and physical resources are limited.
- Faculty evaluations are conducted by the home departments, which may or may not value and acknowledge contributions to the Asian Studies Program.
- Staffing is dependent on the needs of the home departments. In its report on GREAL, the PRC recommends an additional line in Japanese.
- The Asian Studies Program has low visibility on the BGSU campus and in the community.

Program Review Committee Recommendations

1) The PRC strongly supports the formation of an International Programs Council. The PRC recommends that the Vice Provost for Academic Programs appoint and charge the International Programs Council and convene it by December, 2001. The Asian Studies Program should participate vigorously in the International Programs Council, when it is formed.

2) The Asian Studies faculty should establish a more effective presence in international education by actively fostering awareness of the Asian Studies Program among BGSU students, faculty and administrators. We concur with the excellent suggestions of the external review team in this regard.

3) The PRC strongly supports the plan to create an office of International Studies, which would provide telephone, a copier, a FAX machine, secretarial support and a physical space for Asian Studies, as well as International Studies and Africana Studies. This office will be most effective if it is in close physical proximity to the language departments. Prior to the creation of this office, the Asian Studies Program Director should inform the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of the Program's specific equipment and support needs.

4) Although the external review team indicated that low enrollment was not a problem, additional major and minor students would buttress the Program's arguments for additional resources. The Asian Studies faculty should be more active in promoting the Program to prospective students. The creation of a new brochure is a good start. They should identify a target market external to the University (e.g., high schools) and direct promotional messages to that market.
The Program should be visible at Preview Days and the faculty should encourage high school students to visit them on Presidents’ Day.

5) The Director of the Program and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences should discuss the amount of financial resources that should appropriately be provided by the University and by Program graduates, respectively. If an imbalance is discovered, it should be rectified during the 2001-2002 academic year.

6) The Director of the Asian Studies Program should receive reassigned time and a stipend for administration, beginning no later than spring, 2002. The College of Arts and Sciences would need to compensate the Director’s home department with a part-time faculty member. When the current Director retires, a similar arrangement should be forged between the new Program Director and her/his home department.

7) Assessment procedures should be more directly linked to learning outcomes. Results of assessment should include summary data on student achievement of the program’s learning outcomes. This could include, although not be limited to, the employment of assessment specialists from the University of Michigan and the Ohio State University to conduct assessments of BGSU students’ language proficiency. To be truly effective, assessment must include programmatic response to the patterns of strengths and weaknesses of student achievement. The next annual assessment report to SAAC (spring, 2002) should include information of the full assessment cycle, from the statement of student learning outcomes to programmatic change aimed at improvement of student achievement.

8) A new language-learning facility is absolutely necessary for the Program’s success. Complete recommendations on this topic are in the reports on GREAL and Romance Languages.

9) The Program Director should communicate with the directors of program advising offices in the various BGSU colleges in an effort to increase their awareness of general education courses such as ASIA 180, beginning immediately.

*The Asian Studies Program should report annually to the Dean of Arts & Sciences, with a copy to the Provost, on the implementation of these recommendations.*