UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Evelyn Alsultany <alsultan@umich.edu>

Existential

2 messages

Dowd, Gregory <dowdg@umich.edu> Fri, Jul 27, 2012 at 9:17 AM
To: "Naber, Nadine" <ncnaber@umich.edu>
Cc: "Alsultany, Evelyn" <alsultan@umich.edu>

Arab American Studies thinks, therefore....
Thanks Nadine, you are right--same thing, different words.... Not a big deal, either, since the people in the AC are supportive...
Greg

From: Nadine Naber IMAP [ncnaber@umich.edu]
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 4:27 AM
To: Dowd, Gregory
Cc: Alsultany, Evelyn
Subject: Re: AAS, follow up

Dear Greg,

Thanks for this reply. Yes, I'm glad we are e-mailing and confirming. I hear you.

(1) I think we are saying the same thing, just using different words. I meant formalize by simply acknowledging on the level of AC at large that AAS is something "real" and not "emerging." I did not think formalize meant that its the same as the other ES units (since we do not have a minor, course release, substantial faculty to do the work, etc.). Maybe we can use a different word than unit, then, but I still want to be sure that "we exist" :) and that leaving it ambiguous won't mean that we would return to the same issues of being positioned vaguely or sort of there and not there at the same time. For instance, we have a brochure like the other Ethnic Studies units and we have a website, along with the other Ethnic Studies units...so if we do exist and we're not emerging...than should we just call it Arab American Studies and not call it a "unit"? This may not seem like a big deal but I want to be sure we agree on the language we use on our website, brochure, and anything else.

(2) Makes sense

Everything else makes sense...

Thanks again!

Best,

Nadine

Nadine Naber
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Arab American Studies

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Arab America: Gender, Cultural Politics, and Activism

http://nyupress.org/books/book-details.aspx?bookId=6680

Arab and Arab American Feminisms

http://www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/fall-2010/arab-arab.html

Race and Arab Americans

http://www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/fall-2007/race-arab-americans.html

On Jul 26, 2012, at 9:48 AM, Dowd, Gregory wrote:

> Hi Nadine and Evelyn,
>
> Thanks for this email. I hope all is well, Nadine, for you and your family in Cairo. Nadine's note does not exactly comport with my understanding in the first two instances, so many thanks for allowing me the chance to respond.
>
> 1) I have to quickly point out that we did not agree *to formalize* Arab American Studies as a unit. That is not within our authority--it would have to be a departmental decision. I am sorry that I apparently did not make that clear. What I recall is a little different, simply dropping reference to emerging and fledgling. Nothing "formal." I know that leaves things ambiguous, but ambiguity has its advantages--for now.
>
> 2) I will list co-directorship on the list of service assignments, as an acknowledgement of the work performed, but not as a position that must be filled in the event of leaves (I do not recall discussing that). It is a real potential problem. Has it emerged yet? (Sorry to use the word "emerge").
>
> A note on 1 and 2. Nadine and I did discuss what it takes to formalize Arab American Studies. I had thought it would take a course release for the director, and she disabused me of that notion. That's where I thought it would be fine to list the co-directorships on the service assignments.
>
> 3) Yup (you might shoot a note to Anthony Mora), apmora
>
> 4) Yup, let me know if you want me present.
>
> 5) Yup--we actually need to (or should) discuss the whole unit structure. As you know, the college is not likely (I think I can say, is not going) to allow another course release.
>
> I am sorry if we have a misunderstanding, but it is not a fundamental disagreement. I have great respect and admiration for the work both of you have done in this area, especially under the trying circumstances of having done it while untenured.
>
> Best,
> Greg
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Nadine Naber IMAP [ncnaber@umich.edu]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2012 4:44 PM
> **To:** Dowd, Gregory; Alsultany, Evelyn

Subject: AAS, follow up

Dear Greg (and Evelyn),

I hope this e-mail finds you well. We arrived Greg, I mentioned to Evelyn that I would be writing you an e-mail following up on our conversation. So this e-mail is to summarize what we discussed and agreed upon regarding Arab American Studies. Correct me if I'm mistaken as I was unable to write until now, which is now a few weeks after we talked.

1) We agreed to formalize that Arab American Studies is an Ethnic Studies unit rather than an "emerging" unit.

2) We agreed that our service to AAS will be officially recognized in the list of service assignments and the calculation related to labor/workload in assigning service assignments. This year, since we will both be on leave (Nadine in fall and Evelyn in winter) we will list Nadine and Evelyn as co-directors and then later, we can discuss if we should have one person be a director per year. We will not receive a course leave but our labor will be recognized in relation to any other service assignments we are taking on.

3) Our Intro course or any other AAS 200 level courses will be listed on AC documents that include Ethnic Studies courses with the same value (for instance, currently on the teaching preference form, the intro to AAS is not included).

4) We will speak with Mary or Judy about our website and further developing our website.

5) We will have a discussion in AC hopefully at some point this year with faculty at large to discuss (a) future hiring in AAS (of course in relation to other hiring priorities in the program) and (b) possibilities for growing AAS (including developing an AAS minor and the possibility of receiving additional support to keep AAS going (i.e. course leave, funds, etc.).

Thank you so much, Greg, for taking the time to work on this with us.

All my best,

Nadine

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Nadine Naber IMAP <ncnaber@umich.edu> Mon, Jul 30, 2012 at 9:30 AM
To: "Dowd, Gregory" <dowdg@umich.edu>
Cc: "Alsultany, Evelyn" <alsultan@umich.edu>

HI Greg,

Ha ha...good one. Thanks. Makes sense!

Nadine

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