



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: John Petraitis, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Cc: Bill Myers, Professor; Chair, International Studies Program  
Chad Farrell, Professor

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** International Studies BA

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** None

**Campuses where the program is delivered:** Anchorage

**Members of the program review committee:**

Bill Myers, Professor and Program Chair  
Chad Farrell, Professor

### **Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role**

UAA's mission is to discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement and creative expression. UAA is committed to serving the higher education needs of the state, its communities and its diverse peoples. It is also committed to instruction at multiple academic levels, success of all students regardless of their higher education goals, and service to the diverse peoples and communities of the state. UAA's core themes are (1) Teaching and Learning, (2) Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, (3) Student Success, (4) UAA Community, and (5) Public Square. UAA values international and intercultural education, diversity of experiences and perspectives, and the diversity of our unique location in Southcentral Alaska that comes from the Alaska Native peoples of this area.

The College of Arts and Sciences contributes to UAA's mission with a suite of programs that provide, among other things,

1. general education courses for undergraduates in CAS and other Colleges,
2. opportunities for undergraduates to pursue majors in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts, and

3. opportunities for faculty and students to pursue research and creative activities in CAS's academic disciplines,
4. graduate programs for advanced studies.

Given decreased enrollments across UAA and significant budget cuts to CAS, the challenge is to serve UAA's and CAS's missions with only 75% of the funds it had in 2018-2019. CAS's shrinking budget is especially challenging for programs that rely on state financial appropriations through CAS because the programs have a gap between (a) the total costs of everything the program does and needs, and (b) the tuition CAS receives to cover those costs. This describes most programs in CAS: most rely on state appropriates and CAS has 30% less than it had two years ago.

The BA in International Studies contributes to CAS's and UAA's mission by combining interdisciplinary coursework from History, Political Science, Sociology, Philosophy, Geography, Languages, and Art (among others) into a core, and classes and options for tracks in either Global Social Sciences, or Regional Studies of either Asia, the Global South, or Europe. It aligns with UAA's international and intercultural goals.

### **Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity**

Approximately 8-9 incoming students select International Studies as their initial major, 1-2 students below the median among CAS's baccalaureate programs. Give that so much of the coursework comes from other disciplines, it is difficult to quantify how many student credit hours across CAS are from International Studies majors taking courses because of that degree. However, because there are no dedicated faculty position that exist solely in International Studies, it is built efficiently from existing courses and faculty in other disciplines, and it is one of the few programs in where the tuition CAS receives actually covers all of the costs of the program. As to productivity, although in attracts 8-9 incoming student per year, it graduates an average of 16 per year.

### **Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success**

The curriculum was recently revised to better integrate contributions from faculty is a variety of disciplines, and it now offers two major tracks: one in Global Social Sciences and one in Regional Studies (with options for studies that focus on the Southern Hemisphere, Asia, and Europe).

### **Program Duplication / Distinctiveness**

Additionally, there are no duplicative programs in Alaska.

### **Commendations and Recommendations**

Faculty are commended for building an innovative, collaborative program that is the essence of an academic pathway that suits a variety of students. The faculty also should be commended for the hard work they put into their expedited program review submission.

### **Decision**

Continuation. If other programs in CAS are discontinued, this program might become an increasingly important and attractive option for students.