

Proposal to Eliminate Academic Program

Pursuant to UW Regulation 6-43

B.A. American Studies

Statement of the reasons for elimination of the program:

The American Studies B.A. grew out of a strong M.A. program that is funded by development money of long-standing, primarily the Coe and Kuehn endowments. The graduate program has financial stability and a very good reputation. The M.A. also supports UW's internationalization efforts (25-33% international students in the program).

In the past, the College has discussed but not implemented further investment in the B.A. program. At one time, there was a connection to the secondary education social studies endorsement in Wyoming. Most recent changes in that endorsement now leave out American Studies as the possible subject matter degree for social studies. Two faculty will retire in the near future, bringing faculty ranks down to 2.75 FTE. Replacement of one of these lines may be possible, but not both. The future of this entire unit is in jeopardy without considerable investment (funds which are not available) or creative thinking on program administration.

It is recommended that the B.A. be discontinued and attention focused on the already strong M.A.

Description of the program and relevant data:

Describe the mission, curriculum, content and format of the program:

American studies is an interdisciplinary field emphasizing the integration of the humanities, fine arts, and social sciences in the study of American experiences, past and present. Our Program places special emphasis on studying American cultures through course work, field experiences, and internships so that each student can apply academic knowledge to real-life circumstances. Our Program highlights international perspectives, as well as the transnational context of American impacts and experiences, in course work and in exchanges available to AMST students. AMST also highlights opportunities in the public sector, including historic preservation of buildings, neighborhoods, or landscapes.

AMST puts people, ideas, places, artifacts, images, and histories together in programs of study preparing students for specific career goals in K-12 education or work in the public sector (museums, collections, historic sites, interpretive centers, for example), or further education in professional schools and graduate study.

The program dates from 1952, placing it among the earliest to offer work in the interdisciplinary field of American culture studies.

Courses in the AMST BA delivered by AMST faculty

AMST 2010 Introduction to American Studies (no prereq's)
AMST 2110 Cultural Diversity in the US (no prereq's)
Two (2) courses at the 1000-2000 introductory level in interdisciplinary programs (might include 1 course in US History), outside AMST, in consultation with advisor. New majors' transcripts often include 2 such classes at the time they declare their AMST major. (See Appendix 3: AMST BA 4-year curriculum map for current list.)
Three (3) upper-division seminars within AMST , chosen for interest in consultation with advisor. These are seminars (not lectures); they are open to any UW student. <i>Stand-alone 4000-level seminars and those dual listed at the 5000-level include graduate students. Undergraduate enrollment in these seminars may not meet required UG minimums, though the total enrollment may be more than 10. AMST has not offered an under-enrolled class at any level 2015-16. Approximate 2-year course rotation, dependent on faculty availability and resources especially for public sector courses, includes:</i>
3050. Cultures of Nature in the United States. Cross listed with ENR/WMST 3050. <i>Prerequisite:</i> 2000-level course in one of the following departments: AMST, American history, American literature, or a 2000-level course approved for the ENR program.
3100. Food in American Culture. <i>Prerequisite:</i> any 2000-level course in American Studies, or ANTH 1200.
3400. Popular Music and Sexualities. Cross listed with WMST 3400. <i>Prerequisite:</i> WA.
3800. Chicanas/os in Contemporary Society. Cross listed with CHST/WMST 3800. <i>Prerequisite:</i> CHST 1100 or WMST 1080 or AMST 2010.
4020. American Folklife. Dual listed with AMST 5020. <i>Prerequisite:</i> Any six hours from among AMST 2010, 2110, ENGL 2400, AIST 2340, AAST 2450 2730, 3000, 3010.
4030. Ecology of Knowledge. Cross listed with ENR 4030. Dual listed with AMST 5030. <i>Prerequisite:</i> 3 hours in any interdisciplinary program.
4040. Historic Preservation and Sustainability. Cross listed with ARE 4040. <i>Prerequisite:</i> 6 hours in AMST or ARE.
4250. The Harlem Renaissance. Dual listed with AMST 5250; cross listed with AAST 4250. <i>Prerequisites:</i> AAST 1000, AMST 2010, AMST 2110, any AAST 2000-level course, junior or senior standing, or nine credit hours in any level AMST course.
4300. American Culture and the Public Sector. Dual listed with AMST 5300. <i>Prerequisite:</i> 12 credits in humanities or social science courses having to do with American culture.

4650. American Civilization. 1-8 (Max. 8). Explores various interdisciplinary approaches to the American experience, past and present. May include topical, thematic, historical, literary and cultural integrations; for a given semester, the course's precise focus will be indicated in the class schedule.
4650. Women, Gender & Migration. Cross listed with CHST/INST/WMST 4650. Dual listed with AMST 5650. <i>Prerequisites:</i> Junior standing and 6 hours of AMST, CHST, INST, and/or WMST coursework or instructor approval.
4800. Historic Preservation. Cross listed with ENR 4800. Dual listed with AMST 5800. <i>Prerequisite:</i> ARE 3020 or AMST 5400.
4900. Field Studies in Historic Preservation. 1-4 (Max. 4). <i>Prerequisite:</i> 3 hours of architectural history or 6 hours of art history. (Offered based on sufficient demand and resources)
Six (6) upper division courses outside AMST (at least 2 in any one field, maximum of 3 in any one field, may include 1 lower-division course) chosen to reflect and develop students' interests, in consultation with advisor. These can be classes anywhere at UW, and can be transferred from other institutions or community colleges.
AMST 4010 Independent Study OR AMST 4970 Internship
AMST 4985 Senior Seminar

The AMST BA is not offered on-line. AMST 2010 Introduction to American Studies and AMST 2110 Cultural Diversity in the US are offered regularly at LCCC in Laramie. Both classes have been offered intermittently in the past at other CC's.

Describe the role of the program within the context of the college and the mission of the University:

The AMST BA contributes directly and substantively to the UW (2009) mission, through its content subject areas and learning community that includes graduate students and faculty:

- Rigorous scholarly engagement in lower-division AMST courses through upper-division AMST seminars exposes students to the frontiers of scholarship and creative activity and the complexities of an interdependent world.
- The AMST internship program for AMST BAs contributes to economic and community development and responsible stewardship of cultural, historical and natural resources.
- A small learning community provides a responsive and integrating “home” for

- BA majors and ensures individual interactions among students, faculty and staff.
- AMST classes and program life, including BA students' experiences in other programs, highlight values and practices of diversity, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity and mutual respect; these values are visible throughout the content areas of our teaching and scholarship in American cultural studies and in our relationships with other interdisciplinary programs.
 - AMST courses, independent studies, internship opportunities, and program life provide opportunities for personal growth and leadership, linking study of American cultures past and present to active participation in cultural and civic contexts outside school and in preparation for future careers.

The AMST BA delivers content and embodies values central to the Land Grant mission through its engagement with students in broadly humanist practice. AMST is significantly involved in humanities organization at UW, and personnel include the founding Director of the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research (WIHR), the chair of the WIHR faculty, and 3 other WIHR faculty adjuncts (5 people in a faculty of 7). WIHR outlined (2016) the relationship between humanist practice and the Land Grant mission.

The AMST BA shapes students' education in American cultural study to inform and inspire careers as well as lives and capabilities as full persons, after the model of the Land Grant mission.

The AMST BA promotes values and content directly named in USP 2015, across a range of learning outcome categories, including "H" and hopefully next year "C," perhaps "V," **and importantly the complex "Personal and Social Responsibility" component of USP 2015**. AMST courses contributed significantly to previous USP, in WB, WC, C, CH, CS, D.

- Introductory-level required courses in the major, AMST 2010 (Introduction to American Studies) and AMST 2110 (Cultural Diversity in the US), are "H" classes, underscoring the centrality of humanist practice in AMST for our BA majors (who officially complete their "H" in other programs).
- The AMST BA as an integrated whole broadly mirrors the "personal and social responsibility" priority in USP 2015. This list of USP objectives is not attached to specific classes; it represents the Liberal Education and America's Promise initiative (LEAP, American Association of Colleges and Universities, 2005). The AMST BA as a planned, advised, and accomplished program of study **does** much of what this complex "learning outcome" / LEAP ideal calls for.

The AMST Program contributes directly to Interdisciplinary Programs and interdisciplinary innovation in many ways:

- AMST holds split faculty lines with 3 programs (AADS, CW, LTST)
- AMST BA requires interdisciplinary introductory courses outside AMST
- Cross-listed courses raise visibility of interdisciplinary opportunities

- AMST faculty teach outside AMST without split lines (ENR 2000 every two years)
- AMST courses count in other majors (AMST 3050 Cultures of Nature, AMST 4030/5030 Ecology of Knowledge, count in “human dimensions” and “methods” requirements for ENR dual degrees)
- AMST develops courses with other programs (AADS/AIST/AMST/LTST/GWMST 1030 Social Justice)
- AMST contributes to course development outside AMST (ENR 2000 Environment and Society, since its inception in 2000 through ongoing revisions and redeliveries)
- AMST Relationships with College of Education Secondary Social Studies personnel are re-established with goal of returning AMST BA to available social studies major choices for College of Education students.

Advisory/faculty committee memberships:

- AADS
- AIST
- CW
- ENR
- GWMST
- WIHR

Cross-listed courses:

- AADS
- AIST
- ART
- ENGL
- ENR
- GWMST
- HIST
- INST
- LTST
- POLS

A&S strategic planning list relevant to AMST BA includes:

Support the nascent Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research and Center for Studies.

Add at least ONE new PhD program from six under consideration: American Studies, CoJo, English, Geography, History, and International Studies.
May 2018

Maintain and enhance curricular initiatives related to
diversity.

Support departmental and programmatic efforts to establish additional collaborative
research, teaching, or field-based international opportunities for faculty and students.

Promote interactions between UW faculty, staff, and students and citizens across the
state. make it count in [faculty] evaluations.

Invest in curricula for professions critical to the state and region: science, math, social
sciences (CJ, MPA in POLS, ANTH, SOC, PSYC), music ed, and
humanities. Include collaborative curricula preparing student to work
in the public sector.

Increase opportunities for research and internships across
the state.

AMST UP4 plan items affecting the BA:

- *Secure one (1) tenure-track 100% AMST line to stabilize program including BA delivery by 2016. **Not possible in budget environment post-2014.***

Rationale: impending retirements will reduce AMST teaching faculty from 4.75 FTE to 2.75 FTE

Note: AMST BA was deliverable, with a more distributed curriculum, at 2 FTE before 1997.

- *Expand and reconfigure public sector curriculum, including specialists outside AMST and UW on rotation in public sector classes.*

Now includes Tony Denzer, UW ARE; Beth King, WY SHPO; anticipating Fred Chapman, Consultant, and Shannon Smith, Wyoming Humanities Council.

Rationale: BA students as well as MA students seek public-sector education (folklife ethnography and oral history, museum studies, historic preservation, preservation and sustainability, built environment, public sector itself as subject of study) and experience in internships (in communities and organizations, the UW Art Museum, the UW American Heritage Center) regularly.

- *Implement AMST 1000 (first year seminar) for USP 2015.*
Delivered AMST 1101, USP 2015 FYS, Cultures of College fall 2015;

offered again fall 2016.

Note: Contribution to USP 2015, not part of the AMST BA by definition

Post-UP4 AMST action items addressing the AMST BA in particular and/or undergraduate education in general, including USP 2015:

Curriculum and assessment:

- Review AMST BA assessment plan, with consultation, for 2016 report and future strategies: completed.
- Secure USP 2015 “H” status for AMST 2010 (Intro to AMST) and AMST 2110 (Cultural Diversity): completed.
- Revise description of interdisciplinary “foundation” courses for AMST BA, taken outside AMST, two (2) required for the AMST BA, to reflect flexibility of advising and appropriate 1000-2000 level interdisciplinary courses at UW, at Community Colleges, or other transfer institutions: completed.
- Revise prerequisites in Bulletin for all AMST courses: 2016-17.
- Secure A&S 2015 “D” status for AMST 2110 (Cultural Diversity); provisional.
- Secure USP 2015 “C2” status for 1 or more 3000-4000-level AMST seminars (open to all UW students, most cross-listed with other programs/depts): 2016-17.
- Secure A&S “D” status for 1 or more 3000-4000-level AMST seminars: 2016-17.
- Consider AMST version of a USP 2015 “V” class, with possible status in the BA major, at any level: 2016-17.
- Review innovative approaches for delivery of AMST 4985 (Senior Seminar): ongoing.
- Secure USP 2015 “C3” status for AMST 4985 (Senior Seminar): 2016-17.
- Consider 5-year BA/MA track: partially completed, with possibility to recruit appropriate undergraduates to apply for the AMST MA, securing grad credits in last year of BA, no new program designation sought. Ongoing conversation regarding how to describe, recruit, apart from individual known students.
- Establish 5000-level course number for AMST 4500 to distinguish undergraduate/graduate enrollment.
- Consider a language requirement for BA: completed, with decision to strongly encourage 2 years of language study in advising, flexibility to advise appropriately in cases where that is not realistic.
- Public sector class for undergraduates/graduates delivered by AMST APRS: 2017-18.
- Seek 25% FTE support for APRS (currently 75%, FTE shared by AMST, Wyoming Arts Council, and A&S) to include delivery of undergraduate/graduate public-sector class for any UW students, increased advising for BA and MA students interested in public sector fieldwork: 2016-18.

Program Information and recruitment (see Appendix 5: AMST BA Recruitment plan):

- Rewrite UW catalogue copy describing AMST program and AMST degrees: completed.

- Revise AMST web presence, including creation of 4-year curriculum map, to reflect current BA opportunities and student experiences: completed.
- Invest program director and faculty time in BA student recruitment with a goal of 25-30 AMST majors to offer cohort experience without sacrificing benefits of a face-to-face learning environment. Benchmarks: 24 majors by 2018; 25-30 by 2019: ongoing.

Interdisciplinary innovation and support:

- Renew Secondary Social Studies collaboration and availability of AMST BA in SSE credentialing with College of Education personnel: ongoing.
- Support and arrange availability of co-teaching at BA and MA levels, in teaching expectations and job descriptions documents, and invited opportunities to colleagues, to deliver innovative course opportunities for students, graduate assistants with faculty mentors in undergraduate classes, among AMST faculty and other faculty at UW: ongoing. **[Co-teaching no longer an option in A&S.]**
- Support integrity and mission-central value of interdisciplinary and diversity-related programs, courses, and collaborations for all members of the UW community: ongoing.
- Identify plausible opportunity to seek 100% AMST tenure-track position who will be mentored in maintaining best practices in interdisciplinary collaboration, contribution, American Studies field responsiveness in undergraduate and graduate education, and program oversight: ongoing since 1998, ~20 years. **[With the small number of majors in the AMST BA, another faculty line will not be forthcoming.]**

Financial data relevant to the academic program:

Cost data is for ENTIRE department and cannot be disaggregated—BA from MA.

Ratio of student credit hours per FTE (AY 2014/15): 206.6

Direct instructional expenditures (FY 2015): \$1,010,260

i) Per student FTE: \$18,990

ii) Per total degrees awarded: \$202,052

iii) Non-personnel expenditures / total academic FTE: \$8,049

Course enrollment (AY 2014/15)

i) Classes falling under university minimums: 9

ii) Lower-division courses falling under university minimums: 0

Research expenditure per tenure-track FTE (FY 2015): \$8,432

Other instructional cost drivers

i. Section fill rates

Lower division average 2010-14:102%
Summer lower division 2010-14:.....80%
Upper division average 2010-14:87% (excluding
senior seminar)

(Source: Banner course history, Banner final grades)

ii. Course completion rates: approx. 100% (Source: Banner final grades)

iii. Curricular complexity:

The AMST BA is flexible, including 24/48 credit hours to be taken outside AMST. With careful planning and good advising, students could complete the AMST BA in 4 semesters or 2 years.

iv. Faculty course load: all AMST faculty teach at job-description load Course releases 2013-present:

- Director:1 (not true of 2015-16, director load 2-3)
- WIHR Director:2 (founding director of WIHR for WIHR launch)
- Fulbright:1 (fall 2014)

NOTES:

- Independent study and/or Internships are required in the BA.
- AMST 4985 Senior Seminar is offered, on load, whenever a senior needs it.
- Independent (Group 2) instruction is expected in AMST teaching.
- AMST offers an MA as well as a BA.
- Faculty teaching/research expectations reflect participation in graduate education.
- Graduate teaching includes thesis committee chairing, thesis committee membership, and full-program events featuring graduate student formal presentations and defenses, as well as graduate committee membership outside AMST.
- Current AMST job descriptions and teaching expectation documents will be revised to accurately reflect and standardize expected independent instruction for both BA and MA and include full graduate instruction.
- WIHR directorship is a 3-year term closing in 2016-17 that has overseen the creation and organization of WIHR, an asset to AMST, A&S, and UW.
- **All American Studies Faculty** rotate through lower division courses as well as upper division seminars, independent studies, and graduate seminars.
- **AMST TAs do not teach AMST courses.** TAs are apprentice teachers assigned to faculty mentors.

Admission, enrollment and graduation data relevant to the program, including the number of students currently enrolled and the status of their progress toward graduation:

19 BA graduates 2011-2016
BA majors enrolled fall 2010-spring 2015: 15, 9, 10, 10, 10
BA majors enrolled spring 2016: 12

BA interns receive highly positive reviews from their internship sponsors, who look forward to working with AMST students. (Internship evaluations available upon request.)

AMST BA graduates go on to graduate schools, professional education in law and education, public-sector work in historic preservation, organizations, and other occupations.

AMST BA placement:

AMST BAs 2010-2016: 19
Known placement 2010-16: 16

AMST BA Placements:

- Teaching at-risk youth
- Museum work
- Historic preservation (2)
- Maintaining historic buildings and structures
- Law
- Military contracting
- High school teaching
- EMT
- AMST student advising and support, community volunteer
- Graduate study in cultural studies
- Graduate study in Art History
- Graduate study in American Studies (2)
- Military service
- Community-centered food production

Describe the administration of the program:

The American Studies Program administers the B.A. American Studies program. It is situated within the College of Arts and Sciences, Department Head Frieda Knobloch.

Describe the faculty and academic professionals who serve in the program, including their academic credentials, academic rank and length of service to the University:

Ulrich Adelt, PhD, American Studies (25% AADS)

Rank: Associate Professor

Length of Service: 9 years (2007)

John Dorst, PhD, Folklore

Rank: Professor

Length of Service: 33 years (1983)

Andrea Graham, MA, Folklore (75%FTE AP Research Scientist AMST, Wyoming Arts Council, A&S)

Rank: Associate Research Scientist

Length of Service: 7 years (2009)

Frieda Knobloch, PhD, American Studies

Rank: Professor

Length of Service: 19 years (1997)

Beth Loffreda, PhD, Literatures in English (25% CW)

Rank: Associate Professor

Length of Service: 18 Years (1998)

Eric Sandeen, PhD, American Studies

Rank: Professor

Length of Service: 34 Years (1982)

Lilia Soto, PhD, Comparative Ethnic Studies (25% LTST; 75% teaching in LTST)

Rank: Assistant Professor

Length of Service: 6 Years (2010)

Grants awarded 2010-2015: \$196,500.00

Describe the program facilities, including classrooms and offices, library and equipment used by or dedicated to the program:

The facilities for the AMST program include the Cooper Mansion, where the department head and administrative staff, along with some faculty, have offices. Classroom and collaborative space are also located in the Cooper Mansion. However, all facilities would remain dedicated to this program, which will continue to run the successful MA program.

Library resources are available in the collections and databases of Coe Library. This access would be unaffected.

Evaluations from accrediting bodies or other reviewers of the quality of the program and its faculty and academic professionals:

The program not accredited; the most recent program review is the 1987 Self-study (Available on request; 86 pp + Addendum)

Recommendations from Self-study are summarized below.

- 1. Secure full William Robertson Coe endowment for American Studies, as per original Coe bequest emphasizing instruction.*

After 1969, Coe funds had been diverted into the American Heritage Center and a range of projects and positions determined by the AMST Director (then a faculty member in History and Director of the AHC, from the late 1960s through late 1970s, Director of AHC after that). A substantial percentage of the Coe endowment was secured in 1981 for AMST instruction (including salaries); the Kuehn endowment was made available to the Program after the 1987 report.

These funds supported the salary of the Director and a resident folklorist and the original internship program. They continue to support Graduate Assistantships, undergraduate scholarships, internships for both undergraduates and graduate students, student and faculty scholarly travel, Program events and guests, co-sponsorships of events, and many other activities.

- 2. Normalize budgeting/ available-endowment income reporting process.*

Completed by early 1990s.

- 3. Remove the Director's salary and benefits from Coe funds and define that faculty line as a state-funded position.*

Achieved as a temporary arrangement 2015.

- 4. Re-establish the Coe Chair (lost post-1969) in American Studies, to be held by a faculty member in one of the participating departments.*

The Coe Chair became a fellowship for visiting scholars by the early 1990s, for a semester or a year. AMST hosted 5 (high-profile scholars and writers Percival Everett, Karal Ann Marling, Susan Davis, James Galvin, Mick Gidley). Available endowment funds and GA expenses by 2016 mean we have to save up for a visitor like this.

- 5. Allocate to AMST 1 new full-time tenure-track state-funded faculty position for 1989-1990.*

AMST had 2 faculty FTE in 1987. UW faced severe budget challenges. The College made a new hire possible in 1997. UW and A&S continued to face budget challenges 1998-present. Other hires: 75% FTE in 2009, 2011 (the latter with 75% teaching in the other program, tenure home with 75% appointment in AMST), and one faculty transfer from another unit at 75% in 2013.

- 6. Offer matching funding for a 6 year position for a folk arts coordinator for the State and University, upon end of 2-year NEA support for this work in 1989.*

AMST employed a folk arts specialist with endowment funds who collected the Wyoming Folk Arts Archive, a collaborative long-term project for the state, inside and outside UW that established many of the long-standing relationships between agencies and individuals in the State with the Program. This position was a precursor to the 75% APRS position in 2009 for a folklife specialist whose salary is supported by funds from AMST, A&S, and the Wyoming Arts Council. APRS research has included student involvement and resulted in the large-scale folklife exhibit mounted at the Wyoming State Museum in 2014-15, "Art of the Hunt." The original Wyoming Folk Arts Archive materials were transferred to the American Heritage Center in 2010. In a related public-sector initiative that goes back to the early 1980s (historic preservation, see 1987 Self-Study Addendum on request), AMST was not able to secure A&S support for a historic preservation specialist position; AMST hired such a specialist for both BA and MA students, who taught part-time and completed field projects with AMST students for about 10 years, supported by endowment funds and grants.

- 7. Endorse the current efforts of AMST to secure faculty and program development money from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education.*

The FIPSE grant application was not successful; a later NEH Curriculum Development grant was. AMST worked closely with College of Education personnel—some of whom were advisory committee faculty in AMST from the 1980s through the 2000s—to provide interdisciplinary curricula for secondary social studies teachers. This set of relationships was interrupted in the 2000s when the College of Education redefined social studies fields for WY teachers, excluding American Studies. These connections are renewable now with changed circumstances in Education curricula and College of Education recognition that the redefinitions simply overlooked American Studies as a social studies field.

8. *Devote more space to AMST.*

AMST had a small office suite in Hoyt. The UW purchase and restoration of the Cooper House, with AMST faculty advocacy to save the building, document it for the National Register of Historic Places, and AMST funds contributing significantly to the cost of renovating and occupying the Cooper House, paved the way for AMST to move into the Cooper House by 1990, and firmly established historic preservation as integral to the Program.

9. *Establish a PhD in American Studies.*

The justification in 1987 was the quality and uniqueness of the program in the West, the small number of PhDs in American Studies in the West, a unique focus on the *contemporary* West, with a full complement of interdisciplinary opportunities, and importantly endowment support, hoping for a return of the full Coe endowment.

These conditions remain relevant today. In 1987, the faculty—including advisory committee members—stated in the report they were not unanimous on this goal. In a 2007 report on the field of American Studies, senior American Studies scholar Simon Bronner noted that **the most promising growth in the field was at the MA level, a development since the 1990s to which UW AMST contributed directly.** A PhD has not been a Program goal, unless it were interdisciplinary, shared among units, and genuinely innovative, with UW financial investment and oriented in some part toward the public sector. As recently as 2014 there is no consensus among departments (as such) for such a degree, though there is recurring interest in consulting AMST in attempting to imagine one.

Comparison of the program with related or similar programs:

The American Studies Association does not rank American Studies programs.

AMST value as stated by 6 new majors 2015-16:

- flexible curriculum
- opportunity to integrate interests in a genuine liberal arts experience
- individualized attention from faculty and advisors
- financial support in scholarships and internships
- wide range of opportunities possible after the BA
- personal fulfillment studying the cultures they inhabit from a wide variety of perspectives

The American Studies Program is unique among American studies programs in the West in its dedicated faculty lines delivering curricular breadth and depth of BA and MA programs of study. (See Appendix 1: American Studies Program Overview)

AMST undergraduate courses offered by AMST faculty, including required courses and electives (open to all UW students) do not duplicate courses offered in other units, degree programs, or colleges.

The AMST BA as a program of study does not duplicate any degree program, minor or major, at UW.

Describe the anticipated effects of elimination of the program upon the college in which the program is situated, upon other colleges and units of the University, and upon the University as a whole, including:

American Studies is the oldest interdisciplinary unit in the Interdisciplinary Division of the College of Arts and Sciences. Leadership in humanistic research, teaching and representation as the voice of other units is a hallmark. However, as stated in the program review in which a national report on the field is cited, **growth in the field is at the Master's degree level and not the Bachelor's degree level which here is proposed for elimination.** The BA is quite flexible with ties to many other programs where students might well be attracted (see below in next section). The students tend to have broad interests in areas including diversity, the U.S. in global context, sustainability, historic preservation, the non-profit sector, and folklore/folklife among others. The expectation is that the retention of the Master's degree program will provide the college and university with many of the same benefits as having both BA and MA degrees.

Effects upon students enrolled in the academic program:

Given the relatively small number of Bachelor's students and the flexibility of the degree, it is probable that many will graduate within two to three years. They will be informed of the termination of the program and urged to complete the major within two years. In addition, likely retention of 4XXX level courses, which also count for graduate credit, will help in the graduation of these students. Some students may choose to transfer to other majors combined judiciously with minors that excite their interests such as a history degree combined with African American and Diaspora Studies as just one example.

Effects upon faculty and academic professionals who serve in the program, including termination of any existing positions:

Not applicable since all faculty and academic professionals are involved in the Master's degree program.

Educational and financial effects upon other units of the University:

Several of the instructional personnel teach courses relevant to other units, including split appointments with American Studies as the lead unit (75%). These include African American and Diaspora Studies and Latino(a) Studies. Another split appointment is with Creative Writing. **Readjustment of workload with a focus on the 4000/5000 level in**

cross-listed courses will mean that there will be little detrimental impact on other units. Even with units outside Arts and Sciences such as the Haub School, cross-listing of courses should prevent detrimental impact. There is no financial impact. The Coe and Kuehn endowments are significant resources for the program and focus on the MA.

Effects upon faculty, academic professionals, staff, students and alumni of the University:

With the elimination of the Bachelor's degree, **the retention of the Master's degree is vital to the future leadership of interdisciplinary programs and to UW's future in several areas.** That is the loyalty on which UW and the program should begin to focus. Recruitment in that area is an expectation for future growth.

Effects on the State of Wyoming, including loss of benefits conferred outside the University by the academic program:

The MA program is prominent in the state in non-profits, working with state agencies, and museums. This will continue and expand with the renewed emphasis on the MA and anticipated increase in graduate students in the program.

Implementation plan to be followed in the event the academic program is eliminated, including:

Procedures for handling current and future applications for admission:

If the BA program is eliminated, students will not be admitted. Current students will be allowed to finish the program and advised they have a two year window. The number of upper division courses that will likely remain available should provide sufficient opportunity for degree completion.

Plans for assisting currently enrolled students to complete the course of study:

The large number of electives and advising within the program should alleviate problems.

Plans for accommodating faculty and academic professionals who will be terminated or otherwise affected by elimination of the academic program:

Not applicable. Retention for the Master's degree is necessary.