

From: [Pierotti, Ray](#)
To: [University Governance](#)
Subject: Present about CLACS
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 4:59:11 PM

Dear Committee members:

I would like to give a short statement about the proposed move of CLACS into the Global and International Studies (GIST) Program. I have been a professor at KU for almost 30 years, and during that period I have seen KU regularly regarded as an Institution with no real regard for diversity that regularly creates barriers that prevent faculty of color from succeeding.

KU did nothing to save the Indigenous Nations Studies Program in 2011 when Associate Dean Marcia Haufler and Dean Daniel Anderson decided that a successful program should be shut down and a less successful program installed in its place. To me this is simply a repetition of business as usual at KU and it does not matter how many faculty of color are appointed as Associate Deans.

I have worked with CLACS since the closure of INSP, because I felt it was one of the most effective programs at working with and promoting students of color into successful PhD programs and in beginning their careers. I presume this is another “cost-cutting” exercise, like when CLAS decided that three departments, all successful on their own, were folded into the Department now known as Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, which currently has more staff than all three of those departments had prior to the forced merger.

KU has badly bungled handling the Pandemic situation and now finds itself faced with a budget shortfall it could easily cover by dipping into the Endowment. We need loyal faculty and a diverse faculty and student body much more than we needed a new Business School building or new dorms, which probably cost more than the budget shortfall.

KU needs to decide if it wishes to go forward as a top research institution with a diverse student population or as a school that “balances the budget”. I urge you to continue to allow CLACS to continue to exist as its own program. I look forward to addressing you on Wednesday afternoon.

Yours,

Raymond Pierotti, Associate Professor
E&EB