Africana Studies Program Proposal

To: Dr. George Capowich, Office of the Provost
From: Dr. Angel Adams Parham, Director, Africana Studies Program

A brief history: 2006–present

The Africana Studies program at Loyola University has undergone several changes that require a re-construction and re-launching of the minor. The previous director of Africana Studies, Jacqueline Woodfork, left the Loyola faculty in 2006. The program was in transition for the 2006-2007 academic year. By the end of this academic year, I had been chosen as the new director of the program by the existing Africana Studies committee.

At the time that I took over as director, there were two Africana Studies minors. I believe that the reason for the low number of minors has to do with the fact that the minor had very little visibility on campus. There was no clear community of students and faculty who were interested in Africana Studies activities and there were only occasional flyers announcing Africana Studies courses for the upcoming year. The brochure for the minor was already outdated in the spring of 2007 and by the end of that semester it became clear that there were few copies of even this outdated brochure in circulation.

In the fall of 2007, I carried out a review of the program with the committee and began to actively recruit new minors. I put together a report entitled “Assessing the Sustainability of the Africana Studies Minor” which examined changes in faculty and course offerings post-Katrina and which put forward a proposal of what would be needed to improve the minor. This report has been attached at the end of this document for your review.

In the fall of 2007 I also held an Africana Studies information session for students. Four students attended and they were added to a list of students interested in Africana Studies. I began this e-mail list in the fall of 2007 and collected names and e-mail addresses at various campus events where it was possible to circulate a sign-up list. As of fall 2007, there were eighteen names on the list. I kept in touch with these students used e-mail to announce Africana Studies course offerings for Spring 2008 and Fall 2008. Of these eighteen, several have graduated, one has expressed an interest in becoming an Africana studies minor and the others have not expressed any interest in becoming minors.

This fall, I have initiated a monthly Africana studies event in the hope that as students begin to interact with each other and learn more about different parts of Africa and the diaspora, we will see more students move from general interest to
declaration of the minor. The first event took place the evening of Thursday, October 2nd and involved attendance at a film event. I accompanied six students to this event at the Prytania Theater where we viewed two documentaries about South Africa and had the opportunity to speak with the film makers who created them. The showing was preceded by a chamber music group directed by Dr. Jean Montès of Loyola’s music school. The group played arrangements of Haitian songs. The film showing was then followed by a reception sponsored by Whole Foods. The students who attended expressed their great appreciation of the event. I will organize a November and December event as well, and hope that some of the same students may attend these in addition to several others.

The creation of this kind of student and faculty community, which extends from the classroom to relevant activities across the city and beyond is central to my vision for a renewed Africana studies program at Loyola. The minor should involve much more than having students simply take seven different courses. The minor should provide a variety of experiences that help both students and faculty discover the richness and diversity of Africa and its diaspora.

For this reason, the proposal I present here is meant to further two goals: 1) the creation of a scholarly program with academic diversity and integrity and 2) the creation of a community of faculty and students who learn from each other by participating in a range of extra- and co-curricular activities and events.

I address each of these below.

A Proposal to Renew the Africana Studies Program at Loyola

Ensuring Academic Diversity and Integrity
At this time, the academic integrity of the minor is in jeopardy. This is because we have lost three core Africana studies faculty since 2006. This difficulty is compounded by the fact that all three faculty were in one of two departments that are central to any Africana Studies program. We lost Jacqueline Woodfork from the history department and we lost Phanuel Egejuru and Paulette Richards from the English department.

It is really crucial that we offer English and History classes for the minor regularly. Given the importance of these two fields, it is important to offer at least two distinct classes in each of these two departments every academic year. This would ideally translate into one distinct course per semester for both English and history. At present, Judith Hunt occasionally offers a history course, but this is not guaranteed. There is currently no one available at Loyola to teach an English course on any aspect of Africa or its diaspora.
We need to have interesting and well-taught English and history courses in the minor in order to provide an academic experience that has excellence and integrity. I am therefore requesting that arrangements be made to fill in the gaps in history and English. This could occur through the hiring of adjunct faculty in the short term, but in the long term it is important for any university in the U.S. to have at least one faculty member—if not more—in English and history that has research and teaching interests in Africa and/or its diaspora.

It is also important that current members of the Africana Studies committee have flexibility in their departments to offer courses for the minor. The following are the current members of the committee:

- Angel Parham, Sociology
- Sue Mennino, Sociology
- Tony Ladd, Sociology
- Laura Hope, Drama
- Judith Hunt, Dean’s Office and History
- Jean Montès, Music

Some faculty have explained that they are limited in their ability to teach Africana studies courses because their department chairs have not given them much flexibility to do so. It would be helpful to have commitment from chairs to assist with the number and diversity of Africana Studies course offerings.

Creating an Africana Studies Community

As I stated above, the minor should be more than a string of seven classes. Both students and faculty learn and grow best when teaching and learning in the classroom is supplemented by experiential learning outside of the classroom.

I have already taken some small steps toward the construction of such a community. In order to successfully complete this task, however, we need attractive literature that will raise the profile of the minor in the Loyola community and funds that will pay for costs associated with group activities. For this reason, I am requesting the following:

$880 for publicity materials. This is the cost for full-color materials with a glossy finish. The exact quote from the Twomey Printing Center, provided September 2008, is included below.

- 4000 glossy tri-fold brochures ($540)
- 1000 glossy 11x14 posters ($340)

$1000 Group activities for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 academic years ($250 per semester).

$220 Misc. costs (eg. Copies to advertise courses or activities)
TOTAL Requested: $2000

I have already been in contact with publications and we are ready to begin designing the publicity materials as soon as the funding is provided.

Conclusions

In conclusion, I am asking that the following resources be provided so that the committee can do what is necessary to renew the Africana studies program at Loyola:

- In the short term—beginning no later than Fall 2009—provide the resources needed to hire adjunct faculty in the disciplines of English and History. Adjunct faculty in each discipline will provide at least TWO distinct courses per year, with one course delivered per semester.
- In the long term, provide the resources for the English and history departments to hire tenure-track faculty with research and teaching interests in some aspect of Africa and/or its diaspora. Given the small size of Loyola and its faculty, it would be ideal for tenure-track faculty in each of these departments to be able to teach courses relevant to African-American society AND in at least one other area of Africa or its diaspora. Because of our small size, this teaching competence in multiple areas is important even if the faculty member’s own research is concentrated in just one area of Africa or its diaspora.
- Over a two year period—Fall 2008 to Spring 2010—provide the $2000 requested above for publicity and activities that will help to create an Africana studies community at Loyola.

Below, for your review and convenience, you will find the report “Assessing the Sustainability of the Africana Studies Minor”.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have and hope to hear from the Provost’s office in the near future.

Sincerely,
Angel Adams Parham,
Director, Africana Studies Minor
Assessing the Sustainability of the Africana Studies Minor

The following pages present information that has been used to assess the status of the Africana Studies minor, to determine how sustainable it currently is, and to determine the resources needed to ensure the sustainability of the minor now and in the future.

The following sets of information are included:

- A listing by department of all of the Africana Studies courses offered from the Fall of 2004 through the spring of 2008. This four year period is chosen in order to assess the ease or difficulty of completing an Africana Studies minor during the Loyola career of a first year student entering in 2004 and graduating next spring.

- A listing by department of courses that could have been taught 2004-2008 if limited to the faculty we currently have at Loyola. This is important because some key Africana Studies faculty have left in the past two years and have not been replaced. (These faculty are Jackie Woodfork in History and Paulette Richards in English). This breakdown provides a projection of how sustainable the minor will be over the next few years if no additional faculty are hired whose courses contribute to the minor.

- A listing of courses organized by semester, 2004-2008 based on the faculty that are now available at Loyola. This listing makes it possible to see, from the perspective of a student pursuing the minor, how feasible it is to complete the minor.
### Africana Studies Courses Offered Fall 2004 through Spring 2008: Organized by Department

#### History:
- HIST-A440-001: Africa and Black Diaspora (J. Hunt Sp08)
- HIST-A394-001: History of Racism in America (K. Williams, Sp08)
- HIST-A440-001: Africa and Black Diaspora (J. Hunt Sp07)
- HIST-X180-001: African American Culture and History (G. Van Cott, F06)
- HIST-A349-001: Africa to 1880 (J. Woodfork, SpI 06)
- HIST-A352-001: Women in African History (J. Woodfork, Sp05)
- HIST-W186-001: Discovering Africa (J. Woodfork, F04)

#### Sociology:
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp08)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, F07)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd F07)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp07)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd F06)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (S. Mennino, F06)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd SpI 06)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (S. Mennino, SpI 06)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp05)

#### Political Science
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, Sp07)
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, SpI 06)
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, Sp05)

#### English:
- ENGL-V175-001: Black Women Novelists (P. Egejuru, Sp08)
- ENGL-A450-001: Black Aesthetics (P. Egejuru, F07)
- ENGL-V175-001: Black Women Novelists (P. Egejuru, Sp07)
- ENGL-V173-002: The African Novel (P. Egejuru Sp05)
- ENGL-A251-001 African American Literature Since 1900 (P. Richards, Sp05)
- ENGL-A250-001 Introduction to African American Literature (P. Richards, F04)

#### Music:
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp08)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F07)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp07)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F06)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, SpI 06)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp05)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F04)

#### Drama:
- DRAM-V143-001: Black Theater: 1940-present (L. Hope, F07)
Africana Studies Courses that Could have been Offered 2004-2008
with the Faculty Currently Available at Loyola:
Organized by Department

History:
- HIST-A440-001: Africa and Black Diaspora (J. Hunt Sp08)
- HIST-A394-001: History of Racism in America (K. Williams, Sp08)
- HIST-A440-001: Africa and Black Diaspora (J. Hunt Sp07)

Sociology:
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp08)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, F07)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd F07)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp07)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd F06)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (S. Mennino, F06)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd SpI 06)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (S. Mennino, SpI 06)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp05)

Political Science
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, Sp07)
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, SpI 06)
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, Sp05)

English:
- ENGL-V175-001: Black Women Novelists (P. Egejuru, Sp08)
- ENGL-A450-001: Black Aesthetics (P. Egejuru, F07)
- ENGL-V175-001: Black Women Novelists (P. Egejuru, Sp07)
- ENGL-V173-002: The African Novel (P. Egejuru Sp05)

Music:
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp08)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F07)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp07)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F06)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, SpI 06)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp05)
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F04)

Drama:
- DRAM-V143-001: Black Theater: 1940-present (L. Hope, F07)
Africa Studies Courses that Could have been Offered 2004-2008
with the Faculty Currently Available at Loyola:
Organized by Semester

Fall 2004
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F04)

Spring 2005
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp05)
- ENGL-V173-002: The African Novel (P. Egejuru, Sp05)
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, Sp05)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp05)

Spring I 2006
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, SpI 06)
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, SpI 06)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd, SpI 06)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (S. Mennino, SpI 06)

Spring II 2006
No Africana Studies courses offered.

Fall 2006
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F06)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd, F06)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (S. Mennino, F06)

Spring 2007
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp07)
- ENGL-V175-001: Black Women Novelists (P. Egejuru, Sp07)
- POLS-A216-001: Politics of Race and Ethnicity (P. Burns, Sp07)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp07)
- HIST-A440-001: Africa and Black Diaspora (J. Hunt, Sp07)

Fall 2007
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, F07)
- ENGL-A450-001: Black Aesthetics (P. Egejuru, F07)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, F07)
- SOCI-A220-001: Social Protest movements (T. Ladd, F07)
- DRAM-V143-001: Black Theater: 1940-present (L. Hope, F07)

Spring 2008
- MUGN-V172-001 Jazz in American Culture (F. Mayes, Sp08)
- ENGL-V175-001: Black Women Novelists (P. Egejuru, Sp08)
- SOCI-X155-051: Race and Ethnic Conflict (L. Newman, Sp08)
- HIST-A440-001: Africa and Black Diaspora (J. Hunt, Sp08)
- HIST-A394-001: History of Racism in America (K. Williams, Sp08)
Current Sustainability of the Minor

There were 10 distinct Africana Studies courses offered 2004-2008 by faculty who are currently available at Loyola. This would make it possible for a student to complete the minor if it were initiated the first year or at the beginning of the sophomore year. If initiated at the beginning of the sophomore year, however, completing the minor would still be difficult since it would be necessary to take 7 of the 8 courses offered from 2006 to 2008. While it is technically possible for a student to do this, in reality, most students would struggle to do so because they need to take other required courses that might conflict with minor courses during one semester or another.

The other concern is that students may not decide to take on the minor until as late as the junior year. Even if a student initiates the minor at the beginning of the junior year, it should be possible for him/her to complete the minor by graduation. Allowing for a later start acknowledges the fact that student interests change over time and that it may take several semesters for a student to discover an intellectual interest. For these reasons, it should be feasible for a student to initiate the minor as late as the junior year.

As things currently stand, it would not be possible for a first semester junior to complete the minor, and it would be difficult even for a first semester sophomore to complete the minor. The sections below describe resources that are needed to address these difficulties.

Resource Needs

Instructors

Commitment to Sufficient Courses in the Rotation

In order to sustain the minor we need to consistently offer at least 7 distinct courses per year and at least 5 courses per semester that satisfy the minor. These numbers are based on a review of the number and diversity of courses taught 2004-2008. On average, we are offering 4-5 courses a semester and 5 distinct courses per year. As discussed above, this is not enough to ensure that the average student who is balancing other course requirements is able to complete the minor.

In addition, we should increase the number of distinct Africana studies courses that are actually taught from 10 to at least 15. Africana studies minors have expressed their dissatisfaction with the limited number of courses available to complete the minor. Students should be able to choose from a wide range of courses that count for the minor.
Increasing the number and diversity of courses offered for the minor will require the commitment and cooperation of different units across the university. It will require cooperation from departments to allow faculty to teach Africana studies courses and commitment from the deans and the provost to provide funding for adjuncts to offer Africana studies courses as these are needed.

**Support for the Creation of New Courses**
The creation of new courses will require commitment from departments and deans in the following areas:

- Leave time to create new courses that would contribute to the Africana studies minor. These courses would also increase to the diversity of courses offered in the discipline, and enrich the courses available to all Loyola students whether or not they are Africana studies minors.

**Literature Update**
The current Africana Studies brochure is out of date and in serious need of revision. This will require funding, and we request $500 for this purpose.

**Administrative Funding**
In order for the minor to function, it is necessary to have at least some moderate sum for photocopying in order to publicize events and courses of interest to minors. It is also important to hold small social functions to introduce the minor to students and to build community among existing minors. For this reason, we also request some funding to be used for refreshments for information sessions or socials. We request at least $300 per year for these expenses related to the minor.

**Other Ways to Expand Course Options for the Minor**
In addition to requesting additional support from the provost, deans, and departments across the university, Africana studies committee members can help to expand course offerings in the following ways:

- Direct Independent Studies for Africana Studies minors that count for minor credit. (The chair of the minor is now in the process of developing an independent study for a minor who has expressed interest in this.)

- Create special sections of core courses that can count for Africana Studies credit (eg. Reading material in the following courses might be chosen so that Africana studies credit would be appropriate: ENGL T-125 The Emerging Self; ENGL T-122 Critical Reading and Writing)