

American Philological Association  
Classics Advisory Service Annual Report  
Director: Thomas Falkner

Report submitted December 31, 2005

In 2005 the CAS consulted with or received requests for assistance from classicists representing eight colleges or universities. Brief descriptions of the situations and the CAS response are as follows.

- A liberal arts college in the mid-Atlantic asked the CAS for Assistance in identifying a review panel for its Classics department of classicists in the general region. The Director provided a list of potential reviewers.
- Working through several members of the APA, the CAS offered assistance to a university in Mexico that had offered work in classics some years ago and was considering a restoration of the program. CAS offered to identify classicists who were fluent in Spanish and could offer visit and/or offer advice, including several APA members in Mexico.
- A classics department at a major research university in the East with a strong program in classics had consulted extensively during the previous year regarding changes the administration had proposed that would threaten the quality and the existence of the program in Classics: the possible elimination of the teaching of ancient Greek; a reduction in the number of full-time staff from four to three; the restructuring or elimination of the department itself. The CAS, leadership in the APA, and other Deans in the area who are also classicists advised the administration and urged the Dean not to proceed with these changes. In March the chair of the department reported that the administration had decided against the changes it had earlier proposed and that the program in ancient Greek in particular would be sustained.
- A liberal arts college in the South asked the CAS for nominations for the composition of a review panel for its Classics department from classicists in the state. The Director provided a list of potential reviewers.
- The chair of the Classical Studies Department at a mid-size university in the South expressed concerns that the administration planned to restructure the department by absorbing it into the History Department. The CAS Director advised on a number of long and short term strategies. In the mean time, the Chair of the History Department has discouraged the move and the administration has ceased to pursue. The Chair of Classical Studies will keep the CAS Director apprised of further developments.
- A faculty member in the History Department at a mid-size university in the Midwest raised concerns with the CAS about the future of the program in Latin and Classics. The program, a field major distributed among a half dozen departments in the humanities, was threatened with the non-replacement of a key faculty contributor in foreign languages. The Director advised on a range of strategies and recommended in particular that the administration be encouraged to

- arrange for an external review before proceeding with the decision regarding the position in foreign languages.
- The administration at an urban public university in the Midwest asked the CAS for assistance with a state review of its BA program in Greek/Latin and Classical Civilization and for recommendations for a panel to include an archaeologist, a philologist, and a specialist in comparative literature. The CAS provided a list of potential reviewers.
  - A mid-size university in the Midwest is being threatened with the loss of its program in Latin through non-replacement of a retiring professor, with the formal discontinuation of its Latin major, and with the possible restructuring of the classics program by absorbing it into the foreign languages department. The Director has responded with letters to the university's senior administrators and with strategic advice to full-time and part time faculty in classics. Classics faculty have responded by offering the university a viable alternative plan. The administration has responded to the CAS that no decision to discontinue classics has been made, and the classicists and the CAS are continuing to monitor the situation.

Last year this report noted with alarm the increasing frequency with which the CAS has been informed of threats to the Classics at all kinds of institutions and all kinds of programs: proposals to cut positions, to rewrite position descriptions, to reduce the range of offerings in programs (*e.g.*, by elimination of one or both of the ancient languages), and to restructure and reconfigure departments as programs. This year saw strong continued evidence of this pattern. In addition to providing with the usual forms of assistance at the individual and institutional level, the CAS suggests that the APA consider using the annual meeting as a venue for classicists to discuss these challenges collaboratively, develop new strategies for addressing them, and help to prepare professional practitioners more pro-actively. Possibilities might include a panel, an informal discussion, or a consultation service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Falkner