

American Philological Association  
Classics Advisory Service  
Director: Thomas Falkner

Report submitted December 31, 2006

Since January 1, 2006, the Director of the Classics Advisory Service has consulted with or received requests for assistance from six colleges or universities. General descriptions of the situations and responses, in chronological order, are as follows.

- At the request of several classicists at a prominent public university in the west, the CAS advised members of the administration about the administrative structure and situation of the Classics program, which is currently housed together with comparative world literature. In letters to the institution's president, provost, associate vice president for academic affairs, dean of liberal arts, and chair of the academic senate, the CAS encouraged the administration to give serious consideration to establishing Classics as a separate department, provided supporting data, and offered counsel and assistance should the university decide to pursue this approach.
- The classicists in department of modern languages and cultures at a comprehensive university in the midwest asked the CAS to suggest classicists who might serve on a review panel for the department. The Director provided a list of possible reviewers.
- A mid-sized comprehensive university in the Midwest has been threatened for two years with a serious reduction in its program in Classics through non-replacement of a retiring professor, the discontinuation of the Latin major, and program restructuring. In 2005 the CAS responded with letters to the university's senior administrators and strategic advice to the remaining full time and part time faculty in classics. Faculty responded by offering a viable alternative plan to the university. The administration responded to the CAS that no decision to discontinue classics has been made. This issue continues to be pending, as the administration has neither accepted nor rejected the alternative plan.
- The Classics department at a prominent public liberal arts university in the mid-Atlantic region asked the Director for nominations for the composition of a review panel for its Classics department. The Director provided a list of possible reviewers.
- Representatives from two institutions sought benchmark data that would help them to review (in one case reinvigorate) Classics programs at their respective institutions. These requests were referred via the Vice President for Professional Matters to those who manage the APA data base in hope of providing relevant data.

In each of the last two years this report has noted with alarm the increasing frequency with which the assistance has been sought from the CAS in response to various threats to programs in the Classics at all kinds of institutions: threats to cut positions, rewrite position descriptions to reduce the range of offerings in programs (e.g., by elimination of

one or both of the ancient languages), and restructure and reconfigure departments as programs. This year saw a marked decline in this pattern, with one department reporting for a second year that the survival its program continues to be in doubt. It is too soon to attach significance to this, but it is may be hoped that the general condition of national economy and the market have resulted in a more circumspect approach by college and university administrators regarding the relation between the academic program, smaller programs such as Classics, and the fiscal health of their institutions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas M. Falkner