MEMORANDUM

To: William J. Karpus, Dean of the Graduate School
From: Laird Boswell, Chair, Department of History
Re: Graduate Faculty Status Extension for Professors Florencia Mallon and Steve Stern

On November 7, 2016, the Department of History Faculty Council, which serves as the Executive Committee of our Executive Committee, formally approved, by a vote of 8-0-0, a request to extend the Graduate Faculty Status of Florencia Mallon and Steve Stern from January 2018 to the end of the 2017-18 Academic Year.
October 24, 2016

Dear Dean Karpus,

Professor Steve Stern and Professor Florencia Mallon are both retiring in mid-January 2017. Mallon and Stern, along with Professor Francisco Scarano who retired in June 2016, have been the anchors of our number one rated Latin American and Caribbean History Program over the past 30 years.

The retirement, in close succession, of core faculty in one of our key graduate fields necessitates careful planning in order to ensure that their current graduate students can defend their dissertations with the faculty who have mentored them closely since the beginning of their graduate career.

I am writing to request a one-semester Graduate Faculty Status extension for both Florencia Mallon and Steve Stern from January 2018 to the end of the 2017-18 Academic Year. This is a modest request that will enable all their remaining dissertators to defend by June 2018, with Florencia and Steve serving as their main committee members and Francisco Scarano as the “fifth person” on the committee. Our students typically defend at the end of the Academic Year, and Florencia’s and Steve’s “off cycle” mid-year retirement does not fit well in that schedule.

Florencia, Steve, and Francisco have outlined this plan to their students and consulted closely with Professor Colleen Dunlavy, our Director of Graduate Studies. I know that their remaining graduate students would be greatly relieved to know that they can defend their dissertations before a committee of the three mentors who recruited them to Madison.

Thank you for considering this request.

Best wishes,

Laird Boswell

Laird Boswell
Professor & Chair
Department of History