This is an executive summary of a confidential External Review report to the Dean of Arts and Sciences regarding the Africana Studies at Tufts University. During that visit we met with university administrators, faculty and students. No one we interviewed felt the present staffing, course offering structure, or requirements for the current Africa in the New World (ANW) Africana Studies minor were sustainable. Since there is no active steering committee for the existing ANW Program, the External Review Committee relied on the Dean appointed Self Study Task Force members, student representatives and a few selected faculty members to investigate the program. The Self-Study Report was very candid about ANW's strengths and weaknesses including a decline in the active and collaborative engagement of the faculty, the administrative issues with course scheduling and thesis/project supervision. In our interviews with students, these advising, scheduling and course problems were confirmed. Based on those interviews and a review of the Self-Study Report, we recommended that a new Africana Studies major be added to the University offerings and that a separate academic entity be established to administer the program. During our discussion with students, many expressed a preference for a Department of Africana Studies.

We, members of the External Review Committee, take no position regarding what type of academic entity the School should create to achieve the goals of creating a new major in Africana Studies. However, we do recommend that new faculty appointments be added to the entity and these appointments be jointly shared with existing departments.

Finally, we would respectfully suggest that the Dean also create an advisory board for the new Africana Studies...
entity. The membership of the board might include leading scholars in the field, Tufts alumni, students, faculty, and Metro Boston community leaders.