

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-017-123

Academic Program Review for the Geological Sciences Department

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 04/10/13

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date:

Academic Senate

**Date:
First Reading**

BACKGROUND:

The Geological Science Department completed a 5 year program review and is seeking a Senate response to the review.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Jon A. Nourse (Chair Geological Sciences),
Brian Jersky (Dean, College of Science),
Claudia Pinter-Lucke (Associate Provost)

DISCUSSION:

The Geological Science Department has conducted a thorough Program Review summarized in submitted relevant and necessary documents:

- o A detailed and well written self-study

The Geological Science Department's self-study and its appendix (AP-017-123 Attachment 5 & AP-017-123 Attachment 6) covers program description, program assessment and identification of program qualities reflecting on prior assessments, most recently the 2009-10 ad hoc Program Review. The 155 page Appendix includes Assessment reports between 2007 -2010, 2007-2010 Annual Reports of the Geological Sciences Department, a new 2011-12 Geology Undergraduate Curriculum, a matrix with placement of Geology Graduates between 1976-2009. Letters from Alumni and Stakeholders as well as a strategic Plan of the Department from January 2011. The 42-page report was written by Dr. Jonathan a. Nourse, Chair with input from Geological Sciences Department Faculty in April 2011.

The self-study summarizes the past structure of the Department and its changes in the Geology Minor and a proposal for a new Master's degree. It outlines the curricular comparison to other CSu and non CSU-institutions. It discusses the major changes made in the 5 years leading to 2011 and details students learning objectives and outcomes.

The self-study responds in detail to the assessment from 2007-2008.

A big part of the self-study is devoted to the Program's quality and the qualifications of the faculty. The report points out the engagement in university programs and community outreach and details students' commitments, satisfaction and graduate post-graduation placement.

Research (e.g., number of publications) and scholarly activities (e.g., conference attendances, received grants) of 5 current faculty members as well as service contributions are listed in detail. Additional sections of the self-study focus on student success (e.g., advising, learning environment, information available on alumni), alumni survey, Academic Program

enrollment and graduation rates.. The self-study also emphasizes seven points on how to increase outreach and recruitment.

o The External Reviewers' report

External reviewers presented their comments and suggestions to the Provost in an 11-page report (AP-017-123 Attachment 2). It was written by 2 participating faculty members from California State University Northridge and the U.S. Department of the Interior bureau of Land management Division of Solid Minerals (Pedone and Shumaker respectively) in September 2011 based on their campus visit on may 13, 2011.

Overall, the reviewers find the program in a state of transition to better serve the students in the 21st century, striving to maintaining a tradition of excellence. The review commends the Academic Program's chair and faculty on their commitment to pedagogy and upholding a strong program while also relieving bottlenecks in the curriculum. They noted high quality and quantity in scholarly productivity and grantsmanship.

They identified challenges in the balancing historic strengths with new directions giving the numerous retirements of faculty members. The team criticizes the embarking on a master's program in 2012 without adequate number of qualified, full-time faculty members and emphasizes that the current teaching load is to 31% (2010-2011) handled by part-time faculty members which potentially has an impact on the quality of the undergraduate program and ability to provide grantsmanship and research training.

With regard to issued seven Suggestions for Action in a self-study the team recommends the expansion of the curriculum and faculty expertise in the discipline of Hydrogeology/Water Resources, recommends the initiative for developing a Master's program granted the additional hiring of faculty, latter a reoccurring item throughout the report. The team recommends to maintain faculty expertise, enhance grant success, maintain and expand interdisciplinary relationships with other colleges and departments and to interact with Geology alumni and industry stakeholders.

The reviewers detail the proposed new three track curriculum that is based on its self-review of 2009 and report on faculty instructional methods, student advising, research participation, faculty service to university and the high level of cooperation with other departments.

o The Department's response to the External Review

The Department presented its response to the external reviewers in a 4-page report (AP-017-123 Attachment 3). It was written by the department's Vice-Chair Dr. Nourse and co-signed 6 full-time faculty members on May 24, 2012.

The Department responded to the reviewers' suggestions and discussed the ongoing implementation of some of these suggestions. In particular, the Department acknowledged the need to recruit full-time faculty members in the

prospect of future FERP retirements. It responds to the criticized over-reliance on part-time faculty members by pointing out the qualifications of the current adjunct faculty and emphasizes the need for more full-time hiring. TO increase FTES the department proposes additional GE courses in area B1.

The Department further responds to the findings of the visiting team with Amendments to Suggestions for Action, with detailed, 6-point plan that includes plans for 3 tenure-track faculty searches and recruitment of industry professionals as part-time lecturers.

o The report of the Dean of the College of Science to Associate Provost and Associate Vice President

Dr. Brian Jersky, the Dean of the College of Science, reported the results of the program review to Claudia Pinter-Lucke, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President, in a 4-page document (AP-017-123 Attachment 4) dated February 1st, 2013.

He recognizes the positive response of the external reviewers and the improvements made as well as the outstanding quality of the program. He acknowledges the need for full-time faculty and recommends a strategic plan for future hiring. He also suggests to increase the involvement of the growing Department with the college and university community through the development of additional GE courses.

He outlines several points for Dean's office to support the Geological Sciences Department and issues steps for the Department to be taken that include continuous curricular development to match current needs, strategic development of GE offerings, well-supported hiring plans, continuing growth of the Department, Develop collaborations across campus and to balance workloads through the use of TA's.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of AP-017-123 Academic Program Review for the Sociology Academic Program.