

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-014-178

Program Review - Apparel Merchandising and Management

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 05/16/2018

Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded

Date: 05/23/2018

Academic Senate

Date: 07/11/2018
First Reading

BACKGROUND:

As part of the university's five-year planning cycle for all programs, a self-study was prepared by the department of Apparel Merchandising and Management (AMM), covering the academic years 2008/09 through 2013/14. An external review team, consisting of Dr. Ting Chi from Washington State University and Dr. Lynn Boorady from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, visited the AMM Department on May 31, 2017. After their visit, a report was prepared and submitted by the external reviewers, after which both the department and Dean prepared responses. The AP Committee has reviewed these responses.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Dr. Muditha Senanayake, Interim Chair of the AMM Department

Dr. Lisa Kessler, Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture

Dr. Peter Kilduff, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture

DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:

The external reviewers were overall positive in their appraisal of the department's teaching and scholarship. They were approving of the department's planned semester curriculum, and made particular mention of the department's substantial efforts in student advising, work that is not light but is shared among the faculty to help students succeed. The reviewers did note concerns about the sustainability of some of the department's plans for growth; the chief concern was the need for more tenure-track hires to support growth. This is a common issue for departments across campus, and it is significant that reviewers from peer programs concur with the need for more tenure-track hiring.

The reviewers also noted faculty complaints about the burden of university-level initiatives, and the energy they draw away from department-level efforts. The Dean's office concurred with this point. The reviewers recommend the hiring of at least one more tenure-track faculty member and one more technician, to support technology-dependent laboratory courses.

The department and Dean's office were generally in broad agreement with the reviewers' comments and suggestions. Overall, the review is positive, pointing to a department with sound fundamentals and real commitment to working with students. Most areas of concern are resource concerns shared by all programs on campus. The Academic Programs Committee commends the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management on their work, both in the operation of their programs and in the preparation of a thorough and thoughtful review that highlights important issues.