

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-015-178

Program Review – Human Nutrition and Food Science

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 Human Nutrition and Food Sciences (HNFS). An external review team, consisting of Dr. Peter Pribis from University of New Mexico and Dr. Long Wang from Cal State Long Beach, visited the HNFS Department on May 4, 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. Harmit Singh, Chair of the HNFS 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 faculty and programs. They noted that the department has managed to grow enrollments at a time when peer programs at other CSU campuses have seen declining enrollments. They also praised the intense efforts put into student advising, and the strong efforts in and support for faculty professional development and scholarship. The reviewers noted that such a high-quality department has natural opportunities for collaboration, both with other programs on campus (in areas of scholarly overlap) and with R1 schools (particularly with the placement of the department's diverse students into graduate programs).

The reviewers did not note any particular concerns about the department, except to note that it is under-staffed and needs more tenure-track faculty. 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 the need for advising staff, as well as additional technical staff. The presence of advising staff would also help the department implement the reviewers' recommendation of more careful enforcement of class prerequisites. Additionally, while urging the provision of more resources (via hires) to the department from the university, the reviewers also encouraged the department to consider increasing their GE offerings to the campus, thereby bringing in resources via enrollments.

The department and Dean's office were generally in broad agreement with the reviewers' comments and suggestions. The Dean's Office indicated willingness to work with the department on exploring suggestions that require resources. Overall, the review is positive, pointing to a department with sound fundamentals and strong commitment to working with students. The chief concerns (need for more staff and tenure track faculty) are shared by all programs on campus, and merit university-level attention. The Academic Programs Committee commends the Department of Human Nutrition and Food Science on their work, both in the operation of their programs and in the preparation of a thorough and thoughtful review that highlights important issues.