

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-013-190

Program Review – BA Liberal Studies

Academic Programs Committee

Date: xx/xx/2020

Executive Committee  
Received and Forwarded

Date: 03/11/2020

Academic Senate

Date: 03/18/2020  
First Reading

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of the university's five-year planning cycle for all programs, a self-study was prepared by the Department Liberal Studies in AY18-19. Dr. Ronald Solórzano from Occidental College and Dr. Michael Willard from Cal State Los Angeles visited the campus on April 18-19, 2019 as external reviewers and submitted a report. Both the Department (10/1/2019) and the Dean (11/5/2019) prepared written responses. Additionally, the Department submitted an action plan addressing the findings of the program review. The Academic Programs Committee has reviewed these documents and consulted with Acting Department Chair Ballon, Dean Passe, and Associate Dean Gilli-Elewy.

**RESOURCES RECOMMENDED:**

Dr. Jeff Passe, Dean, College of Education and Integrative Studies  
 Dr. Hend Gilli-Elewy, Associate Dean, College of Education and Integrative Studies  
 Dr. Estela Ballon, Acting Department Chair, Liberal Studies  
 BA, Liberal Studies Program Review Self-Study  
 BA, Liberal Studies Program Review External Review Report  
 BA, Liberal Studies Program Review Dean's Response  
 BA, Liberal Studies Program Review Department's Response  
 BA, Liberal Studies Program Review Department's Action Plan

**RESOURCES CONSULTED:**

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**DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:**

The external reviewer commended the Department (1) on the strength of the curriculum and data driven decision making; (2) for the general commitment to service learning; (3) on the faculty use and student desire to use technology in the classroom; (4) for conducting assessment activities; and (5) for the quality of the faculty.

The external reviewers recommended (1) that the Department's advising program should be reviewed and revised to enhance student success, (2) course learning outcomes should be examined and possibly revised to provide better course differentiation; (3) service learning opportunities should be reviewed for opportunities to

secure additional College and or University level support; and (4) a review of assessment activities and tools to provide more useful outcomes measures.

The external reviewers supported the action plan submitted by the Department and stated that it reflected the findings in the self-study and on-site review. The reviewers encouraged the Department to prioritize the long-term goal of continued faculty development.

Overall, the review is positive, indicating that the Department has a strong commitment to the quality of students' education.

The Academic Programs Committee commends the Department of Liberal Studies and the Dean's Office on a quality program, and the thoughtful review of ways to improve teaching effectiveness and scholarly activity.