

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-030-212

Program Review for MS, Regenerative Studies

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 03/02/2022

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 03/23/2022

Academic Senate

**Date: 04/13/2022
First Reading**

BACKGROUND:

As part of the University's five-year planning cycle for all programs, a self-study was prepared by the Regenerative Studies, MS Program. An external review team, consisting of Dr. Dan Klooster (Professor, Environmental Studies) from University of Redlands and Ms. Eera Babiwale (VP of Sustainability) from HMC Architects, conducted a series of virtual site visits and interviews for the Regenerative Studies MS Program on November 5-6, 2020. 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. Pablo La Roche, Professor, Director, Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies
Dr. Lauren Weiss Bricker, Interim Dean, College of Environmental Design

DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:

The external reviewers were overall very positive in their appraisal of the Regenerative Studies MS Program at Cal Poly Pomona. They commended the Lyle Center for creating and offering a rich and immersive learning experience for students who are interested in regenerative studies. They were impressed with the program, the site amenities, student diversity and faculty diversity. The reviewers also mentioned several challenges facing this program. The reviewers mention the inadequate support from the institution for this Program. Because of this lack of support, the Director is over-extended (position has been reduced from full-time to 50% time), the Program lacks core faculty (prior review recommended two additional faculty; this has not yet been met), and because of these issues, the reviewers believe the Center and Program have not been able to achieve the prominence they deserve. The reviewers were not surprised these challenges still exist from the previous external review because funding to this Program has not increased. Other challenges the reviewers mention are the thesis as a curricular barrier (the work of directing a thesis is inadequately compensated), limited public awareness (which hinders student recruitment), and the physical isolation of the Center in reference to the main campus.

The reviewers had several suggestions, including increase staffing (faculty and an Outreach Coordinator), incentivize teaching and service contributions for collaborating faculty, further increase the science-based curriculum, improve thesis, provide internal grants, and consider offering an undergraduate major. The reviewers also suggested to enhance the outreach of the Center. They recommended adding "Sustainability" to the Center and the Program's names in hopes of increasing awareness. They also felt the outreach could strengthen community relations and improve public awareness. Many of these are common issues / concerns for all departments / programs across campus, and it is significant that reviewers from peer programs concur with the need for more tenure-track hiring and more institutional support.

The Director and Dean's office were in broad agreement with the reviewers' comments and suggestions. Overall, the review is positive, pointing to a Program with sound fundamentals and a real commitment to working with students. Many areas of concern

are resource concerns shared by all programs on campus. The Academic Programs Committee commends the Regenerative Studies MS Program on their work, both in the operation of their program and in the preparation of a thorough and thoughtful review that highlights important issues.