

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-004-189

BS/MS Chemistry 2017-18 Program Review

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 02/06/2019

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 02/20/2019

Academic Senate

**Date: 02/27/2019
First Reading
03/27/2019
Second Reading**

BACKGROUND:

As part of the university's five-year planning cycle for all programs, a self-study was prepared by the department of Chemistry, covering the academic years 2015/16 through 2017/18. An external review team, consisting of Dr. Alison McCurdy from Cal State Los Angeles and Dr. Julia Chan from University of Texas at Dallas, visited the Chemistry Department on March 12-13, 2018. 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. Lisa Alex, Chair of the Chemistry Department

Dr. Alison Baski, Dean of the College of Science

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 faculty and their enthusiasm about mentoring students evident by the research, teaching, and advising activities. They made particular mention of the Department's program for the B.S. Chemistry meeting the standards of the American Chemical Society. The reviewers did note concerns about the sustainability of some of the Department's plans for growth; the chief concerns were the need for more tenure-track hires to support growth (particularly in the area of Organic Chemistry) and the MS program enrollment. Concern was also raised for a lack research space for research active faculty members willing to work with students as it has become a limiting factor. These are common issues for all departments across campus, and it is significant that reviewers from peer programs concur with the need for more tenure-track hiring and more research space for working with students.

The reviewers recommend increasing the diversity of the faculty to more closely reflect student demographics and to ensure the maintenance of infrastructure. The faculty and Dean's office agreed with the reviewers and have a plan for hiring more tenure-track faculty and lecturers. The faculty and Dean's office also agreed with the reviewers' comments on infrastructure and have proposed adding more lab research space and office space for lecturers and TAs.

The Department Chair and Dean's office were in broad agreement with the reviewers' comments and suggestions but did mention it was a streamlined review because of the transition to semesters. 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 Chemistry and Biochemistry on their work, both in the operation of their programs and in the preparation of a thorough and thoughtful review that highlights important issues.