

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-015-190

Program Review – BS Anthropology and BS Geography

Academic Programs Committee

Date: xx/xx/2020

Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded

Date: 05/13/2020

Academic Senate

Date: 08/05/2020
First Reading

BACKGROUND:

As part of the University's five-year planning cycle for all programs, a self-study was prepared by the Department of Geography and Anthropology. An external review team, consisting of Dr. Mark Drayse from Cal State Fullerton, Dr. Juliet McMullin from UC Riverside, and Dr. Ramona L. Pérez from San Diego State, visited the Geography and Anthropology Department on March 25, 2019. 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. Dorothy Wills, Acting Department Chair – Anthropology and Geography
Dr. Iris S. Levine, Dean of College of Letter Arts and Social Science

DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:

The external reviewers were overall positive in their appraisal of the Department's teaching and scholarship. They were impressed with the Department's culture, the applied focus, the quality of the faculty, and the growth in number of majors. They made particular mention of Geography and Anthropology being combined into one Department. The reviewers believed that each program is stronger as part of one Department with a shared culture and mission. The reviewers did note concerns about tenure density, the heavy teaching and service load of department faculty, adequate space for laboratories, office, and classrooms, funding for research, and department procedures. 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. The reviewers were also concerned with some of the Department's organization and procedures. 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. In addition, the faculty and Dean agreed with the suggestion to develop by-laws to identify department organization and procedures.

The Department Chair and Dean's office were 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 Geography and Anthropology on their work, both in the operation of their programs and in the preparation of a thorough and thoughtful review that highlights important issues.