

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REPORT TO
THE ACADEMIC SENATE
AP-001-201

Program Review for MA, History

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 10/07/2020

Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded

Date: 10/07/2020

Academic Senate

Date: 10/14/2020
First Reading
11/04/2020
Second Reading

BACKGROUND:

As part of the University's five-year planning cycle for all programs, a self-study was prepared by the History, MA Program. An external review team, consisting of Dr. Nicole Gilbertson (Site Director, UCI History Project) from UC Irvine and Dr. Mark Wild (Professor of History) from CSU, Los Angeles, visited the History MA Program on April 23-24, 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. Anne Wohlcke, Department Chair, History

Dr. Iris S. Levine, Dean of College of Letter Arts and Social Science

DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:

The external reviewers were very positive in their appraisal of the History MA Program at Cal Poly Pomona. They commended the capable and committed faculty that have developed a cohesive curriculum that is unique to the region and aligns to the mission of the University. They were impressed with the new emphasis on digital humanities. Furthermore, they were impressed with the "cohort model" that provides students with opportunities to collaborate and learn from one another. Finally, they commended the program for a 95% graduation rate after three years. The reviewers had several suggestions, including strategic hiring, curriculum restructuring, facilities improvements and increasing the operating budget. 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 instructional space for working with students.

The reviewers also met with current students while they were on site. The students felt the advising, support service, staff, and administration were all adequate and supportive. In addition, the students were satisfied with the quality of their learning experience and felt supported in their path to graduation. Based on student feedback, the reviewers recommend more opportunities to develop student's oral communication skills, and the promotion of affordable course materials.

The reviewers recommended developing a hiring plan that will address current and future needs, and anticipated potential retirements. The reviewers were impressed with the new digital humanities emphasis; however, suggested that a hybrid classroom space with computers and workstations is needed. In addition, the reviewers mentioned the need for a dedicated seminar/meeting room. The reviewers also recommended release time for the Graduate Coordinator due to the heavy workload associated with this position.

The Department 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. Most areas of concern are resource concerns shared by all programs on campus. The Academic

Programs Committee commends the History MA 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.