

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA  
**ACADEMIC SENATE**

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT TO**  
**THE ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**AP-002-212**

**Program Review for BA, Sociology**

**Academic Programs Committee**

**Date: 10/27/2021**

**Executive Committee  
Received and Forwarded**

**Date: 11/17/2021**

**Academic Senate**

**Date: 12/01/2021**  
**First Reading**

## BACKGROUND:

As part of the University's planning cycle for academic programs, a self-study was prepared by the Department of Sociology. An external review team, consisting of Dr. Zulema Valdez from the University of California, Merced, and Dr. Wai Kit Choi from California State University, Los Angeles, "visited" the department virtually on April 5 and 6, 2021. 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. Anjana Narayan, Chair, Department of Sociology

Dr. Sara Garver, Interim Dean, College of Letter Arts and Social Science

## DISCUSSION and RECOMMENDATION:

The external reviewers were very positive in their appraisal of the department. They noted that the program's vision, mission, and values align with the college and university. They also noted that the program has successfully implemented many of the suggestions outlined in the previous program review. Furthermore, the program is student centered and the students expressed satisfaction with the program. Additionally, the reviewers commended the department on its advising of students, the commitment to strong experiential learning opportunities, the culture of students helping students, and the inclusive and collegial atmosphere for all faculty (tenure-track and lecturers.)

The reviewers also addressed challenges in the department, such as the need for the following: tenure track lines to support the growth of the program; the creation of a master's program; bottleneck courses; and mentoring of faculty. The reviewers made recommendations in most of these areas and the department met to review these recommendations and develop their post self-study action plan.

The Department and Dean's office were in broad agreement with the reviewers' comments and suggestions. The action plan is divided into short-term priorities and long-term priorities. In the short term, the department will focus on the following categories: Faculty support, Staff, Website, and Student Success. In the short-term priorities, the proposed actions are well articulated and require few resources on behalf of the college but do require university resources and faculty time. The department has a clear vision as to assessment of the curriculum and faculty success, and dedicated to mentoring junior faculty and clarifying the standards for tenure and promotion.

With respect to the long-term priorities, the categories are Program/Curriculum, Faculty and Student Success. The proposed actions are reasonable, but it is important to note that the hiring of tenure track faculty is a decision made at the provost level, not the college level. The dean will advocate for the department. Nonetheless, the department should outline a hiring plan to address the department needs. The dean further encourages the department to engage in meaningful conversations about a potential

master's program. The dean is in support of the actions listed on the plan and look forward to working with the department on achieving these long-term goals.

One significant point about this program review is that it is the first time the Sociology program has been reviewed since their split from Psychology. The fact that the program has demonstrated its strengths in this first review reflects well on how the department, college, and university handled the split.

The Academic Programs Committee commends the Department of Sociology on their good work, both in the operation of their BA program and in the preparation of a thorough and thoughtful review that highlights issues of critical importance to both their department and the campus as a whole.