Educational Planning Committee

Unit Assessment Update SOCIAL SCIENCES- FALL 08

Myriam Mekelburg- Dept. Chair

African Amer. Studies, History, Humanities, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology

1. Please highlight any changes since you submitted your unit assessment (e.g. enrollment trends of the units as of Fall 08).

- Enrollment in the 7 disciplines of Social Sciences totaled 3569 students with 110 sections, including 20 online and 6 off-campus. This was done with 51 faculty members, of which 2 are tenured and 2 more are new probationary-track instructors. Winter 09 is already at 73% capacity, with 14 classes closed.
- All 7 disciplines increased by an average of 19% with Philosophy peaking at 30%.
- Through block grant funds, we purchased maps for History department, brain models and posters for Psychology, and 8 new DVD's for the Social Sciences library.
- Since Fall 07, department meetings have been scheduled every semester to improve training and communication in the department, as well as expectations of faculty in their evaluations.
- Weekly emails to all faculty members have added to information flow in department.

2. What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of each of your units?

**African American studies** has been struggling mainly because classes were traditionally offered off campus or at other non-convenient times. Personnel issues are also being handled to increase student success. We expect that this discipline will increase when we have classrooms available peak times.

**History: Strengths:**

- the hiring of full time instructor Fall 08
- many highly qualified adjuncts that are very involved in department
- curriculum that is up to date with potential for growth
- new AA degree to be completed by Spring 09
- continued high demand to meet GE/Transfer requirements
- availability of 6 online classes each semester (4 trained instructors)

**Weaknesses:**

- not having maps for instructors to use
- limited library of historical films needed to support discipline
- lack of access to consistent classroom with proper SMART equipment

**Humanities Strengths:**

- diversity of background of instructors that teach this subject
- increasing demand in enrollment during non-peak hours

**Weaknesses:**
- lack of full time instructor
- crippled by outdated curriculum that affects its potential

**Philosophy-Strengths:**
- dedicated adjuncts who hold this discipline together
- increases in enrollment by 30% from Fall 07 to Fall 08
- availability of 4 online classes with high enrollment (2 trained instructors)
- meets several GE requirements for all our students

**Weaknesses:**
- lack of full time instructor for over 3 years
- classroom availability, specifically at night

**Political Science- Strengths:**
- increases in student demand with up to 70 in sections during peak hours
- changing climate in local, national and global issues
- support from community organizations
- diverse background of faculty in this discipline
- availability of 3 online classes per semester with full enrollment (2 trained instructors)

**Weaknesses:**
- personnel issues in regards to quality of instruction
- need additional full time faculty to support student demand
- outdated curriculum in discipline
- lack of overall organization in planning (labor studies?)

**Psychology- Strengths:**
- the hiring of full time instructor Fall 08
- many highly qualified adjuncts that are very involved in department
- curriculum is up to date, with potential for growth
- AA degree to be updated to meet current field demand
- continued demand to meet GE/Transfer requirements with 5 different subjects offered
- availability of 2 online classes each semester with full enrollment (2 trained instructors)
- field that is in high demand due to increased awareness in mental health and the need to provide services

**Weaknesses:**
- need a second full time instructor to properly grow this discipline and meet student demand
- supplies such as posters of the brain, access to medical books and other medical supplies
- video library for discipline
- no established rapport with local mental health clinics

**Sociology Strengths:**
- diversity of instructor’s different specialties of the discipline such as research, gender roles, race relations, social psychology, criminology
- high enrollment due to GE and transfer requirements
- increasing demand for online courses. (5 trained instructors and up to 9 classes offered every semester)
- 7 different subjects available to students
- internship created with non-profit social agency for hands on training

**Weaknesses:**
• only one full time instructor (who is released for dept. chair responsibilities) but 20 sections to staff.
• Lack of classroom space, especially rooms with 50 or more needed for peak times
• Outdated video library for the discipline
• SMART classrooms for all instructors
• Availability of support staff to handle enrollment in Distance Education as well as ongoing faculty training and student support.

3. How does your unit planning support the mission of the college?

The Social Sciences department continues to support the mission of the college by offering AA degrees in a variety of disciplines, GE requirements to transfer to universities, and even self development classes to improve the lives of Mission College students. We do so by offering classes at times that are convenient to our students so they can obtain educational SUCCESS in a timely manner.

4. What are your visions for changes, revisions and growth?

A. There are many visions for this department. The first one is that our disciplines be staffed with one full time instructor minimum, and two in high enrollment units. Second, that all our courses have updated curriculum by Fall 09. Third, that all faculty members have a proper space to prepare for their classes, meet with students and collaborate with other colleagues. Fourth, that consistent faculty evaluations be completed to ensure quality of instructions in all our courses. In general, these 7 disciplines have unlimited potential as long as quality, consistent and energized faculty members are involved.

B. As for revisions, SLO’s will be our top priority mainly in editing the current outcomes and in assessing 10% of all our classes.

C. Growth will continue to be assessed as we schedule classes that fit our diverse students needs to complete AA degrees and transfer requirements. Another area of great growth will continue to be increasing the demand of online classes, without jeopardizing the quality and integrity of the instruction.

5. What resources are needed to support as well as to build the programs in your Department?

Facilities:

1. Classrooms that are free of broken furniture, excessive dirt and dust
2. Real size ADULT desk for our students to fit into
3. Simple paint touch up in most of classrooms in Instructional Building
4. Permanent classrooms for classes that are over 50 or those that need permanent supplies (History maps).

Staff:

1. Two large disciplines remain without a full time faculty member (Humanities, Philosophy) and three more need a second full time faculty due to high enrollment. (Political Science- 13 sections with an
average of 55 students per section, Sociology- 20 sections with 40 students per section and Psychology with 17 sections and 50 students per section)

2. This department has 51 faculty members to staff 110 sections. One full time secretary just for this large department is an ABSOLUTE MUST.

**FTEF:**

To meet student demand, the Social Sciences will need additional FTEF in FALL 09 and reduce off campus sites that cannot guarantee high enrollment classes of 30 or more. As well as work with PACE program to reduce the duplication of classes.

**Technology -**

- Textbook Publisher has been providing free training to faculty who are interested in teaching online, however permanent institutional support is needed for ongoing training. Some kind of electronic orientation for online students would also improve retention.
- Powerpoint training still needed for many faculty members
- Website designing support for instructors
- Additional SMART classrooms for visual presentations

**Other:**

- Additional funding available to pay adjuncts to update curriculum
- Office space for all adjuncts with a computer and phone.
- Off campus site continue to be a big challenge from scheduling, to enrollment, access to books and retention.

6. What is the status of SLO assessments in your department?

SLO's for all courses in Social Sciences were completed during the Fall 07 semester mainly by adjunct faculty. However, many need to be edited and more concise to meet district standards. Two sections of SLO assessments were completed in Sociology during the Spring 08 semester. This remains one of the highest priorities in the department, but lack of full time faculty and secretarial support does hinder this process dramatically. A meeting is scheduled with SLO Coordinator on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008 to move forward.

7. What is the status of the course outlines of record and course updates in your department?

In regards to curriculum, 7 new classes were created, 19 updated and 6 archived. The AA degree in Sociology was updated for Spring 09 and an AA degree in History will be added then too. Humanities and Political Science disciplines remain outdated by more than 15 years and continue to be some of our main challenges in the department. Over all we have made great strides in this area.