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

There have been numerous changes to our unit since the last review in 2008. One of those changes was the transfer of the Humanities discipline to the Art Department. Another was the hiring of two more full-time probationary faculty members in Sociology and Political Science. This brings us to at least one full timer in 4 of the 6 disciplines which is a tremendous improvement since 2008. Therefore the Social Sciences department now has 6 high-enrollment disciplines with two tenured faculty, 4 probationary full-timers, and 46 adjuncts to service 3812 students in 73 sections. Those include 5 online classes and 6 off campus. (Spring 2011) All six disciplines have an average of 50 students per section but many are well over 60.

Instructor evaluations remain a focus for this department as does student preparation for success in all of our courses. Current review of curriculum is in progress to assess the need for pre-requisites to increase student success in several of the disciplines. As of Summer 2010, ten social sciences instructors completed Pedagogy classes to update their skills in teaching Distance Education. Most also completed training in Ecollege to transition out of Course Compass and into this new Course Management System.

Department meetings continue to be scheduled every semester to improve communication, as well as expectations of professionalism from our faculty. A recent meeting included basic guidelines on security concerns, how to handle problematic behaviors in the classroom and technology training with a new department training manual.

Overall, our biggest challenges in each of our discipline are to keep class size below 60 to ensure student success, but at the same time meet student demand. This is difficult task to establish in the current economic conditions placed on the entire campus and state.

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

African American studies- This discipline has grown tremendously in the last 2 years through administrative support to offer more than one section. Personnel issues were resolved and a strong faculty member has made it possible to not only update two of our current courses, but also create a new course this January as well.

Challenges- mainly financial as campus support to budget for these sections will need to be established to truly support a program in the near future. As well as connecting with universities to offer classes that are transferable and may lead to a four year degree.

History- this discipline is now in the hands of our full time faculty and Vice-Chair, as well as qualified adjuncts who continuously participate in SLO assessment and curriculum updates. A new degree was submitted for approval this January 2011 and all courses are up to date in curriculum. Maps were acquired as was a SMART classroom.
challenges remain the lack of sections to fill the demand for these GE requirement courses. Average class size is 48.

3. Philosophy- Strengths in this discipline is still in the hands of adjuncts since 2006 as demand for classes remains at 46 students per section.

Challenges- SLO assessment and curriculum updates are still pending in this discipline. A request to fill this position has yet to be approved but remains a priority in our department.

4. Political Science- by far this discipline has seen the most changes with the hire of a new full time instructor who has updated 8 courses for the first time in 20 years and archived another 4, and updated the AA degree to reflect such changes. Further, department policy was updated by all instructors in this discipline to address political visitors in the classroom. A new policy has been published on Dr. Durukan’s website.

Challenges- remain in the lack of available maps to use in the classroom. Requests have been made as an URGENT priority for this discipline. Another challenge is also class size which has reached over 65 at times. More sections need to be offered for this discipline to address student demand, including online.

5. Psychology- this discipline now has two full time faculty members to ensure updated curriculum. Eight courses were also archived and the AA degree was updated in Spring 2010. Plans now include a new program in counseling for Fall 2011.

Challenges- more sections needed to keep class size under 55 per section to increase student success. Further, more trained faculty to offer distance education in this discipline would also be a priority.

Sociology- this discipline has the highest enrollment in the department with 1,082 students in 20 sections, handled with two full timers and 8 adjuncts, including 3 online and 3 off campus.

Challenges- due to budget constraints, four elective courses that were created in the last 3 years have stopped being offered or reduced drastically. This has dramatically affected the growth in variety of courses that can be offered for sociology majors. Class size also remains an ongoing issue with many sections reaching 60.

3. How does your unit planning support the mission of the college?
Our unit planning continues to support the mission of the college by offering a variety of courses available to students in non-traditional formats such as Friday classes, off campus and online courses. Further, all of our courses satisfy GE requirements to transfer as well as earn degrees at LAMC therefore ensuring that students succeed in a timely manner.

4. What are your visions for changes, revisions and growth?
The visions for this department mainly rely in having adequate offerings of classes for our community’s demand for students who are adequately prepared for success. Additional visions include a full time instructor in Philosophy to ensure updated curriculum, additional sections in all disciplines to lower class size, proper supplies such as maps, complete assessment of all SLO’s as well as revisions, annual meeting in all disciplines, ongoing dialogue and training of all faculty to improve instructions, training in technology to support all classes and finally growth in distance education offerings to meet student needs.

5. What resources are needed to support as well as to build the programs in your Department?
• **FTEF**: in order for us to return to adequate number of sections in each disciplines, an increase in allocation is needed.
• **Facilities**: office space is needed for new faculty and additional adjuncts
• **Staff**: one large discipline remains without a full time faculty member (Philosophy)
• **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, as well as electronic orientations for online students to improve retention.

- **Supplies** - maps are needed for Political Science discipline as well as a campus DVD library would be beneficial to support instruction.

6. **What is the status of SLO assessments in your department?**
   SLO’s assessment remains one of the highest priorities in the department and more than 10% have been completed in each discipline

ADD DATA HERE

7. **What is the status of the course outlines of record and course updates in your department?**
   We are happy to report that with the help of our new faculty, there have been 37 courses updated and 21 archived in just two years. **You might add what percent in each discipline are up-to-date.** AA degrees were also updated in Sociology, Psychology and Political Science and a new degree submitted in History.