

Administrative Response to Landscape Technology's Program Review April 14, 2020

On Monday, December 16, 2019, the Landscape Technology SAC presented their Program Review findings to an audience of PCC administrators and others with an interest in the discipline. The presentation was informative and thought provoking. It provided an opportunity for engagement with those in attendance through an informative and interactive dialogue with faculty and students.

This Administrative Response will: A) note particular highlights of the LAT program and Program Review; B) provide observations and recommendations; and C) provide the administrative response to the SAC recommendations/resource requests.

Noteworthy Efforts or Achievements

- The LAT SAC volunteered to use the new Annual Discipline Update YEAR A and YEAR B forms for their program review. We appreciate your willingness to use these forms and provide us with feedback.
- Presentation was informative and engaging. We appreciated the serious and humorous photos and the opportunity to ask questions to learn more about the program.
- Based on data and analysis by the LAT faculty, they have increased class sizes to accommodate additional students. Unlike many other programs, due to the increase in class sizes, their SFTE has been increasing.
- Increased pass rates in courses over the last three years especially the second-year students.
- An active advisory committee who meets on a regular basis and provides input to the program.
- Partnership with the Washington County Master Gardeners. This has included substantial time assisting them in designing and building the garden.
- Obtained the Tree Campus designation and the Bee Campus designation.
- Leading the campus tree committee and advising the Planning and Capital Construction employees and contractors regarding the status of trees identified for removal and/or replacement.
- Student participation for the last two years in the National Collegiate Landscape Competition has provided students with the ability to network, learn and compete against other colleges across the nation.
- Developed and taught nine non-credit skills-based workshops for incumbent workers.

Observations and Recommendations

- We appreciate the actions that the SAC is taking based on the data analyzed for the program review. These include the strategies to increase pass rates for first year students by putting into place items such as tutoring or making an introductory course pass/fail.
- We appreciate the tasks that are completed by the LAT faculty and staff including mentoring students, marketing the program, developing industry partnerships, updating curriculum, and planning/implementing landscape projects for the Rock Creek Campus.
- Provided a rich variety of LAT Students successfully transitioning into industry divided out to various criteria.
- One of the findings from reviewing the data was the discovery that several students who earned certificates were not awarded these certificates. This has led to a change in process with auto-awarding the certificates. In addition, the LAT program has made changes to their degrees and certificates which should increase the number of degrees and certificates that are awarded.
- We noted that approximately one-half of the students already have a degree. What about those who don't? How can we continue to show the benefit of obtaining a credential and encourage this for students who don't have one?
- What are non-credit certificate options? What were the hurdles in the pilot that was done in 2019? If those were solved, could it be expanded?

Administrative Response to Recommendations & Resources

1. *Drafting Lab Upgrade - Creating a dual use, multi-program drafting lab at Rock Creek which will accommodate 25 students for BCT and LAT design/drafting classes. Current space is set up for 20 students to learn mechanical drawing/drafting, lacking capacity for integrating computer-aided drafting which is now the industry-standard. Estimated cost \$52,250.*

There would be an improvement to instruction with the creation of the multi-program drafting lab. Please work with your division dean to ensure this is on the priority list for funding.

2. *Integrated computers for CAD integration (dependent upon funding for item #1). Estimated cost \$42,500.*

We recognize the need for updated computers and software for this program. Please work with your division dean to ensure this is on the priority list for funding following item #1 listed above.

Closing

In closing, we want to commend the LAT SAC for volunteering to not only pilot the Annual Discipline Update YEAR A and YEAR B in one year and to also have a program

presentation. It is evident that you have spent many hours collectively invested in addressing opportunities to help students be more successful. The amount of work you have demonstrated is impressive and our students are benefitting from your hard work in and out of the classroom. We want you to know that we appreciate your work and value your commitment to doing what is best for students. We also appreciated the opportunity to climb trees!

Administrative Response submitted by Cheryl L. Scott, on behalf of the Deans of Instruction and Dean of Academic Affairs.

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