Administrative Response to Program Review  
Philosophy  
Prepared by Dr. Cheryl L. Scott  
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On February 14, 2014, the Philosophy SAC presented their Program Review findings to an audience of PCC administrators and others with an interest in the discipline. Both the written report and the presentation were informative and thought provoking. Your presentation provided an opportunity for engagement with those in attendance through an informative and interactive dialogue.

This Administrative Response will: A) note particular highlights of the Philosophy Program and Program Review; and B) provide the administrative response to the SAC recommendations.

**Noteworthy Efforts or Achievements**

- Increase in course offerings in response to the increased student demand, both in the classroom and distance learning.
- Providing leadership in the formation of the Center for Civic Participation (CCP) at Portland Community College.
- Changes in the titles of two courses to improve the marketability of the courses and ensure the titles are relevant for our current students.
- Development of PHL 212, Introduction to Philosophy of Mind.
- All Philosophy course CCOGs were reviewed and modified.
- Assessment of student learning in Philosophy courses.
- An honors version of PHL 202, Ethics, has been authorized and the curriculum is currently being refined.
- Your course outcomes are aligned with the College Core Outcomes.

**Administrative Response to Philosophy Recommendations**

Recommendations:

1. **Increased support and opportunity to convene for the sole purpose of discussing pedagogy and reflecting on our classroom practices.**

   We support this recommendation. Many SACs hold additional meetings throughout the academic year for both face-to-face and through online communication tools such as email, groups pages, Spaces and Google. We recommend you assess the possibility of holding your own additional SAC meetings in these varied formats, and/or on an existing non-instructional day. Any additional in-service days would need to be negotiated in the contract.
2. **Further investigate the degree in which the fulfillment of student outcome is affected by instructional modality.**

   We concur with this recommendation and look forward to hearing the results of your investigation. The Distance Education department is working with Division Deans and FDCs to develop better methods of evaluating online classes. Please be sure to coordinate your work with theirs.

3. **Grounding the college core outcomes within the discipline of philosophy.**

   We support this recommendation, noting that this tension between the expectation vs. aspirational outcomes is felt throughout the college, and commend the PHL SAC in its effort to find both meaning and direction for this difficult conceptual problem. We suggest that you connect with your assessment coach (Contact Wayne Hooke if you are not sure who this is) for consultation on how the college requirement for assessment of the core outcomes may be met in a way that meets the needs of Philosophy as a discipline.

4. **Greater institutional investment in student learning by balancing the FT/PT faculty ratio by adding 2-3 new FT faculty positions.**

   Given the current and near term budget environment, adding new Full Time Faculty is difficult. Please continue to dialog with your division dean about specific campus needs.

5. **Working with the SE Center campus to expand their Philosophy course offerings.**

   We concur and support your recommendation to expand Philosophy course offerings at the Southeast Center.

6. **Increased access to professional development funds for adjunct faculty to attend external conferences and professional development training events.**

   Adjunct faculty with assignment rights may request professional development funds through the Office of Professional and Organizational Development. The funding available through the Office of Professional and Organizational Development to adjunct faculty with assignment rights is the same as full-time faculty.

7. **Institutional funding for the Center for Civic Participation (CCP).**

   Given the current and near term budget environment, adding a director for CCP would be difficult. We recommend you continue to advocate for the CCP by dialoging with your division dean.
8. College support for DL transcription services.

The philosophy DL courses that have been reviewed for accessibility over the last few years have been very accessible, and many have included rich media sources. Examples include:

- Spencer, PHL 202 (Spring 2014)
- Jolin PHL 212 (Spring 2014)
- Cayton, PHL 204 (Spring 2013)
- Jolin, PHL 201 (Fall 2013)
- Corrado, PHL 221 (Fall 2012)
- Woolman, PHL 202 (Fall 2012)
- Stockton, PHL 191 (Summer 2012)

Faculty are ultimately responsible for ensuring that their classes, whether face-to-face or DL, are accessible. Many Office of Civil Rights complaints are due to an instructor doing something in a class that is discriminatory.

Some things even in face-to-face classes have to be accessible ahead of time because it might not be possible to find an equally effective solution at the last minute. While both Disability Services and Distance Learning outsource captioning for accommodations, DL views captioning as part of media production and a benefit to all students, not just those with an accommodation need. Captioning is part of creating media, and it benefits those who speak English as a second language, students with learning disabilities, students whose hearing loss isn't significant enough for an accommodation, students watching a video in a loud room, and those who learn better by reading and hearing, etc. Captions also make it possible to search a video. There are too many benefits to only see captioning as an accommodation.

The guideline for captioning only requires an instructor to caption media they create or PCC creates for them if they will be using it for more than one term. So basically this gives an instructor at least one term to get the captioning done. PCC offers captioning training twice a month and there are some extremely easy captioning tools available. In addition, one option is to provide a transcript to DL and they will synchronize that transcript to the media.

One more point to provide further clarification, media in classrooms must be captioned. It is not appropriate or effective for someone providing signing services to sign during a movie.

For additional assistance, please contact Karen Sorensen in the Distance Learning Department.
9. Investigate the possible establishment of a cultural literacy designation for PHL 204: Philosophy of Religion and PHL 222: Philosophy of Art & Beauty.

We concur and support your recommendation. Please complete the appropriate forms and submit to the Curriculum Office. If you need additional assistance, please contact Sally Earll.

Closing

In closing, we want to again thank the Philosophy SAC for sharing the results of your program review with us. We enjoyed learning more about the discipline of Philosophy, your successes and plans for the future. We look forward to supporting your on-going work on continuous program improvement.

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

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