

Administrative Response

Criminal Justice

May, 2016

We thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to your discipline, profession, and students. The Program Review presentation and discussion was engaging and informative. This response contains 4 sections: 1) Commendations, 2) Suggestions/observations, 3) Response to recommendations/areas of SAC needs and 4) Closing comments.

1. Commendations

- *The Program Review presentation and discussion was engaging and informative.
- *Demonstration and role playing on engaging people in distress was instructive.
- *Curriculum focus on CJA 101 Cultural Diversity for Police Professionals and CJA 244 Tactical Communications in Crisis Incidents is appropriate and timely.
- *Focus on writing skills, in WR 121 English Composition, WR 227 Technical Report Writing, and CJA 230 Police Report Writing, in response to perceived need for improvement is commendable

2. Suggestions and Observations

While diversity in the Criminal Justice program has increased, and the proactive focus on cultural diversity and social issues in law enforcement is commendable, the program is perhaps uniquely positioned to contribute to recruiting, training, and retaining a more diverse workforce within law enforcement, corrections, and public safety professionals. The Criminal Justice program at PCC needs to do more to leverage its influence in these areas and fulfill this potential as a resource to the local community.

While curriculum changes to focus on diversity, social issues, and writing skills in response to perceived needs in the field is commendable, the program needs to establish meaningful assessment practices based on systematic and consistent assessment of student work, such as papers, portfolios, and police reports. It is important that all outcomes of the AAS degree be assessed in a reasonable cycle, reported annually and summarized in the Program Review.

Working with an assessment coach from the Learning Assessment Council can help the Criminal Justice SAC in developing authentic assessment practices that are meaningful and useful in guiding curriculum changes, professional development activities, and other program improvements. The DOIs want to see evidence of these assessment practices.

Finally, failure to follow the Program Review Outline has resulted in the omission of key information. The outline is intended as a guide or template to ensure all relevant information is provided and all essential questions are addressed. Subsequent program reviews will need follow the outline and address all of the questions directly, or will need to be rewritten.

3. Recommendations

A third classroom would be useful for evening courses. Currently a third class must be placed in another building such as Jackson Hall unless another program cancels one of their courses. *Class scheduling and classroom location are campus-controlled decisions. The DOIs recommend the CJA FDC work with the AHELS Division Dean to secure a more favorable classroom on the Cascade Campus.*

Recommendations needing financial support:

Add an Academic Professional to criminal justice staff. Currently the program has two full-time faculty members and about 30 part-time instructors. Administrative support is needed given the number of students and adjuncts. With the looming retirement of one of the full-time members, a smooth transition could be made by hiring an academic professional now. This person would replace the second full-time staff and fill the administrative support. *Adding an Academic Professional to the Criminal Justice staff would require either a temporary expenditure of resources which would then be replaced by savings from a future faculty retirement, or could be a permanent commitment of resources when/if that future vacant faculty position is redeployed to another program or discipline. All new positions and/or redeployment of positions are considered on a college-wide basis. The DOIs will consider this recommendation when evaluating the totality of needs across the district.*

4. Closing Comments

It is apparent that the Criminal Justice program has been pro-active in infusing its program and curriculum with training on diversity, social issues, and the importance of written communication. The Criminal Justice SAC needs to take the next step in developing consistent, meaningful assessment practices to help guide future curriculum and professional development to address college core outcomes.

We want to thank you for and thoughtful, engaging presentation.

Loretta Goldy
Craig Kolins
Cheryl Scott
Kurt Simonds
Kendra Cawley

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