

## **Administrative Response to Program Review Geography (GEO) Transfer Program June 2018**

On June 1, 2018, the Geography SAC presented their Program Review findings to an audience of PCC administrators, community stakeholders, students, and others with an interest in the discipline. The presentation was informative and thought provoking, with notable and stellar engagement from part-time faculty in addition to very committed full-time faculty.

This Administrative Response will: A) note particular highlights of the Geography 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**

- A very well designed, visually appealing, and thorough program review document.
- A well prepared, organized, and engaging program review presentation. In this presentation, you effectively demonstrated the scope of your program, facilities, strengths, and needs. We appreciate the ways you highlighted the strengths of all of your faculty and included the student voice in your presentation as well.
- Incredible growth (+17% GEO overall and +116% GIS), development, and further professionalization of the program over the past 5 year program review cycle, in spite of a decrease in full-time faculty support.
- Intentional and enhanced collaboration and development of partnerships within PCC and in industry.
- Support, development, and advocacy for both the LDC (GEO) and CTE (GIS) aspects of the program.
- Demonstrated commitment to connecting GIS students to internship and career opportunities.
- Departmental support of the GIS club and other student engagement/leadership opportunities.
- Strong leadership and commitment from the program's continuous appointment faculty, Christina Friedle.

### **Observations and Recommendations**

- Given the great success of the GIS program and the strains placed on one full-time faculty juggling oversight of both the GEO and GIS programs, we would like to start a discussion about the possibility of creating a SAC/department specifically for GIS. Given PCC's structure, distinguishing GIS (CTE) from GEO (LDC) may reduce some of the resource strain placed on full-time faculty at this time and provide more growth opportunities for the program, while still offering both SACs the opportunity for joint endeavors.
- Effective demonstration of how an education in Geography is lacking in high school (and college) and is important for a well-rounded education. We now have a better grasp of the importance of this discipline to our students.
- Given the importance of the subject as explained above, we urge the GEO SAC to be actively engaged in collegewide conversations and work in preparation for Guided Pathways.

We are pleased with the many advancements this SAC has made since the last program review and with the commitment we see from your SAC to promoting student success. We urge you to continue to keep up the great work.

### **Administrative Response to Recommendations**

**Recommendation:** *SAC supported/planned curriculum development and advising activities on pages 38-39 of your program review document*

- **Response:** We are very appreciative of your thoughtful self-assessment and engagement in a process of coming to a set of robust SAC supported recommendations. We especially appreciate your student success orientation recommendations under the advising section. As you work with your SAC in implementing these recommendations, please notify your SAC Administrative Liaison if there are ways you believe we can offer additional support.

**Recommendation: Staffing / Faculty** - (1) *We recommend that the college retains the full-time Geography position at Rock Creek who can focus on Geography (Human & Physical), (2) Hire a 2nd full-time GIS Instructor or Academic Professional to support the growing needs of our GIS CTE program, (3) Hire a Lab Tech that provides tutoring for students outside of class and manages the equipment (maintenance and checking out), lab facilities, technology, and software,*

*(4) Provide support for Academic Advising for the GIS program since no Perkins Advisor is available for our program.*

- **Response:** (1) We recognize the importance of retaining the full-time GEO position at RC and will be entering block hire this year with a GEO position on the list. (2) The Sylvania Campus currently holds a 2nd full-time GIS instructor on our position “wish list”. Given current budget/resource constraints, we cannot commit to a second position at this time, but recognize the great need for more support in this area given its great enrollment growth, connection to industry, job demands, and level of student engagement required to run the program optimally. (3) Given current budget/resource constraints, we are not yet able to commit to a Lab Tech position. However, we request that your Division Dean work with her colleagues to inventory IST positions on the Sylvania campus and determine whether there are current resources that can be shared with the GIS department. (4) The college is currently undergoing an Advising Redesign that will result in shifts that may better meet the advising needs of your program. Please work with your Division Dean and Associate Dean of Students to explore partnerships that will assist in better advising students into GIS/GEO pathways.

**Recommendation: GIS Facilities & Equipment** - *(1) We recommend that in the HT building remodel, space is set aside for the GIS program that includes two computer labs, classroom/common space that does not include computers, GIS faculty offices, and a storage area for our equipment, (2) We recommend that the college provide financial support to our program to be able to purchase equipment and/or software when necessary.*

- **Response:** (1) We recognize the need for additional space for GIS as the program has grown substantially. The program is on the resource needs list under consideration for the HT remodel. Discussions around which programs will go into the new space will begin in fall of 2018. Your Division Dean will ensure you are represented in these discussions. (2) Equipment needs/requests can be made through your Division Dean to your campus leadership team, the bond, or FMS, as appropriate.

### **Closing**

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

*Administrative Response submitted by Karen Paez, with input from and on behalf of the Deans of Instruction and Dean of Academic Affairs.*

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