

**Administrative Response to Program Review
Integrated Studies Program
April 2015**

On April 24, 2015, the Integrated Studies SAC presented their Program Review findings to an audience of PCC administrators and others with an interest in the disciplines. 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 Integrated Studies Program and Program Review; B) observations/recommendations; and C) provide the administrative response to the SAC recommendations.

Noteworthy Efforts or Achievements

- The consolidation of Chicano-Latino Studies (CHLA), Humanities (HUM), and Religious Studies (R) into one SAC and the first program review for these disciplines.
- Coursework is being developed in a new discipline, International Studies. This discipline will be added to the SAC in the near future.
- Faculty teaching Chicano-Latino Studies are analyzing student success for both classroom and online courses.
- Chicano-Latino Studies will be offered as a dual credit course in the Beaverton School District for the first time in spring 2015.
- World Religion courses are being offered as dual credit at Central Catholic High School and are being planned to be offered at Jesuit High School in the 2015 – 2016 academic year.
- As requested by the University of Portland, two additional Religious Studies courses are being developed and will be submitted to the curriculum committee in spring 2015.
- The Program Review presentation was informative and provided clarifying information about the Chicano-Latino Studies, Humanities, and Religious Studies programs.

Observations/Recommendations

- We were impressed with the common thread of the disciplines in this program as purposefully representing a broad, integrative approach to learning. We believe that this common identity should be explored further. Because these courses provide a strong platform for assessment of core outcomes (which themselves speak to broad and integrative learning), we would like to see the SAC engage in coordinated assessment. This can be done by using assignments from the different courses that the faculty feel will be assessable using a common rubric (similar to the AAC&U project

PCC participated in this year or as part of next year's project). Please contact Kendra Cawley during Fall term for advice/direction to prepare for this work.

- The courses focused on Africa (History, Literature and Art) were established when the AAOT required sequences, so these had utility as a set of courses that no longer exists. HUM 204, African History is cross-listed (equivalent to) HST 284, and could continue to be taught under the HST prefix even if HUM 204 were inactivated, HST 205 and 206 (Art and Literature) have no cross-listed partner, but we have not had faculty interested in teaching these courses for several years. While the triptych of courses is appealing, if they are not ever offered, it does not seem reasonable to represent them as part of our curriculum, so we recommend inactivating all three courses (which would not affect the status of HST 284).

Administrative Response to Integrated Studies Recommendations

1. **Chicano Latino Studies:** At this time it is unclear what the program's administrative needs will be. However, a solution to the problem of fulfilling SAC responsibilities without FT CHLA faculty is needed. At present the SAC will continue to rely on part-time faculty to complete administrative duties. The CHLA program has missed assessing Core Outcome because there has not always been the part-time faculty to draw on. Careful planning and creative efforts are needed to keep the program current with its administrative assessments and needs. The SAC has committed to defining these needs, assessing priorities and working within the SAC to meet the program's needs. We trust there will be administrative support for these efforts. It's unclear what form this support will take, but the SAC will communicate CHLA needs as they are defined.

We appreciate the thoughtful planning by the CHLA faculty. A specific recommendation did not appear to be present in this item, but we look forward to continued dialogue as the SAC continues to evolve.

2. **Humanities:** There is NO FULL TIME Humanities-only FACULTY member in this program to help create a vision for the discipline and help maintain some consistency and cohesion for the many adjuncts who teach in the program. Currently there are 7 faculty members who teach the 15 sections. There is one full time instructor who teaches Humanities as well as History.

It is difficult during this time of declining financial resources to hire additional faculty. We acknowledge that the absence of a full-time faculty position can present challenges. We recommend you continue to dialogue with your division dean to advocate for the need of a full-time Humanities faculty position. Thank you for the work you are doing to provide Humanities courses to our students at Portland Community College.

3. **Religious Studies:** The finances to pay a permanent faculty member, full or part-time. Beyond that, just support for our new curriculum, which may require a small amount of new library resources, and beyond that, the same support all similar classes get in scheduling and offering the class.

It is difficult during this time of competing financial resources to hire additional faculty. We acknowledge that the absence of a full-time faculty position can present challenges. We recommend you continue to dialogue with your division dean to advocate for the need of a part-time or full-time Religious Studies faculty position. Regarding library resources, we recommend you work with the Library staff to ensure the needed resources are available for your students for new courses.

Closing

In closing, we want to again thank the Integrated Studies SAC for sharing the results of your program review with us. We enjoyed learning more about the disciplines of Chicano-Latino Studies, Humanities and Religious Studies, 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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