

Administrative Response

Sociology May, 2016

We thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to your discipline, profession, and students. 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 provided significant insight into instructional challenges in the teaching of Sociology at PCC.
- *The Program Review discussion provided a useful example and experience of applying the Sociological Imagination to issues and organizational structures at PCC.
- *The Sociology faculty was thoughtful in its discussion of the value and challenges of meaningful, authentic assessment in Sociology and of student learning assessment generally. The Dean of Academic Affairs would also like to thank the Sociology faculty for engaging in the Multistate Collaborative project pilot year, and presenting both data and observations related to that experience in the Program Review.
- *It is clear that the Sociology SAC is committed to engaging students in critical thinking, self-reflection, and effective communication connecting personal experience to broader social and historical contexts by way of the Sociological Imagination.

2. Suggestions and Observations

The Sociology SAC's clarity about the mission and goals of the discipline and courses at PCC is welcome and appreciated, as is the focus on the learning and application of social theory and development of the Sociological Imagination. The teaching and learning activity embedded in the Program Review presentation and the example of a class assignment helped illustrate the work that takes place in the Sociology classroom. While we appreciate the example of writing assessment related to the college's Core Outcomes of effective communication, the DOIs would have appreciated a more detailed discussion on the efforts and challenges of assessing the course content of Sociology and the Sociological Imagination. In addition, while Whiteness History Month was referenced in the Program Review document and in a PowerPoint slide during the presentation, there was little explicit focus on race, diversity, equity, and/or social justice in the document and presentation. Perhaps the SAC believes that these interests and commitments "go

without saying” among Sociologists; however, because PCC is such a predominantly white institution, explicitly addressing issues and challenges of diversity and equity in the teaching of Sociology would have been appropriate and appreciated.

3. Recommendations requiring funding:

MyPCC and PCC Network: Reduce recurring network slowdowns and outages both on campus and off campus:

We acknowledge that network slowdowns and outages are a significant problem for instructors and students both in online and on-campus classes. PCC’s IT Department has been working on a long term network redesign and upgrade process that should, over time, improve network speed, security, and reliability. In the meantime, Distance Education provides direct access to D2L course shells outside of the MyPCC portal to help mitigate problems with the PCC network.

Increased Compensation for Part-Time Faculty – Part-time faculty need to be paid for all work, including SAC-related work:

Part-time faculty are paid a stipend for participation in SAC meetings, professional development workshops, and other approved activities, and can be paid an hourly rate for approved special projects related to assessment and other high priority projects and activities. The stipends, hourly rates, and overall amounts that part-time faculty are paid and the total funds available for such payments are subject to collective bargaining and college budgeting process.

Program Assessment Support– Similar to support provided to instructors for providing disability accommodations (e.g., accessibility) and for D2L instructional design, we need a full-time assessment resource person who has training and experience in program-level assessment in higher education:

The DOIs acknowledge that the LAC Assessment coaches are helpful resources to the SACs but may not have the time or experience to become expert guides in assessment across multiple courses and disciplines. A dedicated Assessment Resource person to work with SACs and coach the coaches is a helpful and intriguing suggestion. The Learning Assessment Council is continuing to reflect on and revise the protocols and expectations for the annual assessment reporting, and will carefully consider your recommendation.

Additional Support NOT Requiring Financial Resources:

Related to teaching and learning, the SAC faculty plan to continue:

- assessment work on learning outcomes and program intervention, including incorporating new PCC Core Outcomes into the sociology curriculum
- pedagogy discussions
- professional development, including applying for POD funds to attend conferences and other relevant workshops

In an effort to work for student success, the SAC faculty plan to:

- compile a list of all PCC resources for student success
- continue to develop strong collegial relationships with TLC/MCC/QRS/WRS faculty
- connect students to relevant financial support resources, veteran's centers, students counseling services, and other student support services
- strategize and prepare for the new student population created by Oregon Promise who may need additional support for student success
- continue the use of CPNs and other tools to keep students a breast of their progress
- continue to use the Student of Concern process
- work to assertively reach out to students when attrition occurs
- continue to utilize an applied pedagogy and to take advantage of assorted community based learning opportunities for students
- clarify course level benchmarks of student success
- continue to identify and take advantage of Open Educational Resources/low cost resources for students
- continue to collaborate and sharing of resources among faculty

In terms of student completion, the SAC faculty plan to:

- continue to expand our use of Open Educational Resources
- be mindful and strategic about the scheduling of sociology

The DOIs appreciate and support all of these plans and efforts.

4. Closing Comments

It is apparent that the Sociology SAC is engaged in challenging students to think critically, reflect meaningfully, and communicate effectively on important issues by learning and applying social theories and developing the Sociological Imagination. Well done.

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