

Administrative Response to Program Review

Women's Studies Program

April 2017

On April 14, 2017, the Women's Studies SAC presented their Program Review findings to an audience of PCC administrators and others with an interest in the discipline. The presentation was informative and thought provoking. It 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 Women's Studies 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 well-attended, strong program review presentation that was interactive and demonstrated the commitment of the WS faculty to equitable student success. The inclusion of student voices/testimonials in the program review presentation was especially poignant and reflected the incredible growth and learning that occurs in WS classes. The presentation was also successful in articulating the unique strengths of the WS program and ways the discipline benefits both the college and our students.
- WS is one of the only sites of instruction that is explicitly dedicated to promoting social justice and we see our WS faculty as leaders and models of social justice at PCC and beyond.
- Intentional collaborations with our campus Resource Centers, the Illumination Project, STEM Center, and other student services units, demonstrating a firm commitment to student success and retention.
- Expansion of the Focus Award, with 94 students having earned the WS Focus Award since Winter 2012 and a recognition ceremony at Rock Creek to honor RC students who have completed the award.
- Marked improvements in program assessment, starting with the 2015-2016 assessment project which resulted in thoughtful reflection on the construction of the assignment and revisions/improvements.

- Strong and routine collaboration with faculty from other SACs, including exchange of material and best practices.
- Remarkable increases in enrollment during a time when enrollments have faltered throughout most of the college.
- Engagement in Community Based Learning projects throughout several WS classes.
- Investment in Open Educational Resources (OER) and the creation of OERs as a tool to promote equity and inclusion.
- Establishments of faculty “anchors” at each campus to support the advancement of WS across the college.

Observations and Recommendations

The commitment and passion of the faculty who have participated in this SAC and furthered the growth of WS at PCC is remarkable. We are exceptionally grateful for the leadership the WS faculty has shown in demonstrating a commitment to social justice education and equitable student success. The WS SAC has proven to be a model of cross-campus collaboration, resourcefulness, student advocacy, and active engagement in the college community. The dedication and hard work of this SAC is much appreciated. Our recommendation is simple -- continue doing the exceptional work you have done in support of our students and the college community.

Administrative Response to Resource Needs/Recommendations

1. Full-time Position: The FT position at SY is currently temporary. It needs to be permanent.

Given the college’s commitment to equitable student success and the clear/direct link that a FT position in WS provides in promoting the college’s mission, we are pleased to announce that we will support this recommendation and will launch a search for a FT permanent WS faculty in block hire of 2017-2018. We will also reinstate the temporary position through the 2017-2018 year.

2. Budget: At this point SY is the only campus that has a dedicated budget for WS. WS classes are often funded out of other disciplines like

History and English. Even SY's budget is inadequate to pay for the courses which are offered each term. All four campuses need to have an adequate WS budget.

The need for a dedicated budget at each campus is noted. However, given the current financial landscape, this may not be feasible at each campus. We encourage campus faculty to explore this request with their campus Division Deans and Deans of Instruction.

Closing

In closing, we want to again thank the Women's Studies faculty for sharing the results of your program review with us. We are pleased with your success in developing a strong Women's Studies program that benefits both the college and its students. 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, on behalf of the Deans of Instruction and Dean of Academic Affairs.

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