

Program Assessment and Review Council (PARC)
Minutes for Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2006

Members Present:

Jeremy Redman, Martha Dede, Raymond DeLeon, Kristin Powers, Cecile Lindsay, Michelle Saint Germain, Teri Yamada, Kelly Janousek, Judy Strauss, Zvonimir Hlousek, Betsy McEneaney, Keith Freeseemann, Mason Zhang, Olga Rubio, Van Novack

Guests in Attendance:

Kristin Monaco (Economics/Global Logistics), Peter Holliday (Art), Barbara White (Gerontology), John Tsuchida (Asian and Asian American Studies), Cassandra Kao (Asian and Asian American Studies), Linda Maram (Asian and Asian American Studies), Mark Wiley (CLA), Carlo Chirenza (RGRL).

1. Meeting was called to order by the chair, Zvonimir Hlousek, at 2:05 pm
2. Olga Rubio was welcomed as a new member of PARC from the College of Education.
3. Zvonko Hlousek presented the UPRC report on M.A. in Global Logistics program. Other UPRC members were Peter Holliday (formerly PARC) and Christopher Dennis (CLA/Political Science).

Key Points: Global Logistics is a pilot program; a decision will be made soon by the Chancellor's Office whether it becomes a regular MA program. Given Long Beach's role as a major port and transportation hub, there is clearly a local need for people with these skills, and enrollment has been strong. It is a self-supporting program offered through UCES. Students are mostly already working in the field full-time. Courses are 6 ½ weeks long, and the program can be completed in a minimum of 22 months. New courses needed, according to the report, are in the areas of technology of simulation and decision making. Two new faculty lines are recommended, a joint appointment in Business and Economics (CLA) and another joint appointment in Engineering and Economics.

Discussion: Change needed – Human Resources and Management is one department. Question about why an MA program rather than an MS. Question about the nature of the capstone project: it is an empirical analysis project. Cecile Lindsay notes that a copy of the finished product should be filed in the University Library. Question regarding whether the program intends to go “state side” – K. Monaco's response is that more resources would be needed, and there are no such plans at this time. Discussion of relatively liberal admissions policy – Monaco explains that there are no good predictors of who does well in this kind of program, backgrounds vary. Discussion of table 3 on completion rates. Some aspects are confusing. Program is too small at this point to justify start-up involved with online courses.

Motion to accept the Request to Implement Program in place of program self-study passed.

Motion to accept UPRC report (with minor revision as noted above) passed.

4. Betsy McEneaney presented the UPRC report on the M.S. in Gerontology. Other UPRC members included Jeremy Redman (PARC) and Dan Jones (HHS/Kinesiology).

Key Points: Gerontology is located within the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Health and Human Services. Coursework in Gerontology is mandated by the State for all CSU campuses. The Gerontology program offers an MS in Gerontology and an

undergraduate or postbaccalaureate certificate in Gerontology. Graduates report a high rate of success in securing jobs in their field. A key feature of the program is its interdisciplinary nature, reflected in a significant number of faculty from across campus who participate in the Gerontology Faculty Interest Group. The MS program enrollments are small but steady. Major recommendations in the report include ways to increase enrollments significantly by inviting applications from candidates rejected by high demand, related grad programs (Nursing, Social Work), and conducting outreach to advisors in related undergraduate majors, particularly in the Liberal Arts. The report recommends that the position of Director should be expanded to .4 FTE, a full-time lecturer line should be converted to tenure-track and a tenure-track faculty member should be hired as a retirement replacement. Barbara White presented information regarding the progress the department has made in address recommendations made earlier by the external reviewers, including participating in a pilot program inviting applications from “excess” students.

Discussion: Question about whether students write comprehensive exams. Response – no, those stopped some years ago. Change needed – Table 4B, Novack suggests that 80% for 2004-05 is misleading, replace with 60%. Discussion regarding qualifications and performance of “excess students.” Response – the program is watching the progress of these students very carefully. Concern raised about how these individuals are approached. Response – invitation goes to those who appear qualified simultaneously with rejection letter from other program. Question about recruiting from LB City College – not possible to recruit directly because LBCC only offers an AA in Nursing.

Motion to accept the self study passed.

Motion to accept the UPRC report (with minor revision as noted above) passed.

5. Michelle Saint Germaine presented the UPRC report on Asian and Asian American Studies. Other UPRC members included Phi Loan Le (formerly PARC) and Carlo Chirenza (RGRLL/CLA).

Key Points: Although Asian Americans Studies is strong according to the UPRC report, there is some concern that Asian Studies lacks a faculty nucleus. The UPRC found Asian Studies is anchored primarily by one senior faculty member, with adverse consequences for curriculum, availability of courses, etc. There is also concern about lack of consistency of content and pedagogical approach across various sections of a course. Enrollments are otherwise growing, and language courses have “clear potential” according to Carlo Chirenza. Recommendations in the UPRC report include discussion with the College regarding other possible administrative configurations for the various programs, including the possibility of discontinuing the BA and/or MA in Asian Studies.

Discussion: John Tsuchida articulated that the department disagrees with the suggestion that the MA program in Asian Studies be considered for discontinuance. The department disagrees that Asian Studies relies predominantly on one faculty member; instead, Tsuchida said that there are a lot of faculty to teach and support Asian Studies in a variety of ways. Also, the department has established an Asian Studies Committee recently, including faculty from other departments, to address some of the issues raised. In response to the issue of advising, the department has tripled the office hours of the undergraduate advisor. Subsequent discussion of the difficulties in all language classes of how to implement placement exams, especially before the semester starts. Discussion of recommendation by UPRC for the department to conduct peer reviews of teaching to ensure that instructors provide content and assignments that promote learning outcomes. Some PARC members are

concerned that peer review recommendation violates both RTP guidelines and contractual obligations.

Motion made and passed to delete “conduct peer reviews of teaching” in recommendation to department #4 and replace with “appoint course coordinators.”

Motion passed to accept self-study.

Motion passed to accept UPRC report (with revision as noted above).

6. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.