III. Discussion of Program Data and Resource Requests

A. Discussion of Trends and Reflections

Liberal studies enrollments continue to be fairly high, with 347 Liberal Studies majors enrolled in classes during Fall 2019. This number is up from previous semesters: 276 Liberal Studies majors were enrolled in classes in Spring 2019 and 281 Liberal Studies majors were enrolled in classes in Fall 2018.

While most Liberal Studies’ required and concentration courses are offered by departments outside of the program, two required courses are offered in the program: LBST 201: Introduction to Liberal Studies and LBST 499: Liberal Studies Senior Seminar. These classes have high enrollments. Between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019, 238 students took LBST 201 and 161 enrolled in 499.

Liberal Studies tends to have more juniors and seniors enrolled than lower division students:

Spring 2019:
- Fresh: 28
- Soph: 26
- Juniors: 65
- Seniors: 156

Fall 2019:
- Fresh: 34
- Soph: 30
- Juniors: 125
- Seniors: 155

The largest Liberal Studies concentrations are Liberal Arts and Teacher Preparation.

- Teacher Prep: 190
- Liberal Arts: 193
- Early Childhood Education: 40
- Early Childhood Development: 20
- Educational Psych: 6
- Foundational Math: 1
- Foundational Science: 1

Long term program goals include submitting the Multiple Subjects CSET Waiver to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The effects of waiver approval would be twofold. First, the waiver would enable Liberal Studies majors with the Teaching Preparation concentration to apply for credentialing programs without taking three MS CSET exams. Second, the presence of the waiver would encourage more undergraduate students to select the Liberal Studies major with the Teacher Preparation concentration; this would lead to growth in the department.

B. Request for Resources

The Liberal Studies program needs to hire a full-time, tenure-track faculty member in order to meet the needs of our large number of students. In particular, a dedicated faculty member is needed to coordinate the program’s administrative functions, including outreach, scheduling, assessment, and supervising advisors. Significantly, Liberal Studies needs a long-term faculty member who can work to develop large-scale program goals, including the Multiple Subjects waiver program. This faculty member would also be able to teach the two in-program classes: LBST 201: Introduction to Liberal Studies and LBST 499: Liberal Studies Senior Seminar. The absence of a person in this position has had a negative impact on our ability to maintain program continuity, LBST’s institutional knowledge, and, also, develop program goals.