



COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND REVIEW

16-17 CAPR 2
October 20, 2016

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning Review (CAPR)

SUBJECT: 16-17 CAPR 2: 2014-2015 Five-Year Program Review for Communication

PURPOSE: For Action by the Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: Acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of [Communication](#); it is recommended the program continues without modification. The date of the next Five-Year review is AY 2021-2022.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on May 19, 2016, CAPR invited members of the Communication Department to orally present the outcome of their five-year review process completed in 2014-2015. Dr. Mary Cardaras, the Chair of the Communication Department, was unable to attend because of a teaching conflict. Dr. Lonny Brooks presented a summary of the Communication five-year review to CAPR and participated in a question and answer session with committee members. Dr. Brooks shared the Department's plan for curricular changes with semester conversion, information about new departmental initiatives focused on sustainability, as well as updates to their assessment processes.

At the time of the 2014-2015 five-year review, there were 460 undergraduate and 51 graduate students majoring in Communication, with 7 FTE tenure-line faculty members. In addition to courses for Communication majors, the Department offers two general education courses: Communication 1000 and Communication 1004. The Department oversees the production of the student newspaper (*The Pioneer*), the Pioneer Web TV's weekly news show, the Communication Laboratory, and the Pioneer Advertising and Strategic Communication Agency.

OVERVIEW OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO CAPR:

- A Self-Study
- A Five Year Plan (2015-2020)
- External reviewer's report (from Michele S. Foss-Snowden, CSU Sacramento)
- Program response to external reviewer's report

CAPR ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRAM'S FIVE-YEAR REVIEW:

The following program improvements have been made since the last five-year review:

1. The curriculum was streamlined, with the number of options reduced from 9 to 2;

2. Further curriculum improvement work was completed, but awaits approval;
3. Four new faculty members were hired, and all three junior faculty were awarded tenure;
4. A five-year assessment plan was developed and implementation began in 2012-2013;
5. A common syllabus, learning outcomes and assessment rubrics were developed for COMM 1000 in 2013 to allow for the assessment of the General Education Oral Communication Outcome.

Areas of continuing concern:

1. The pressing need for facilities upgrades as well as other equipment and spatial resources;
2. Growing student enrollment and pre-2008 levels of tenure-line faculty members;
3. Workload and assigned time issues for faculty taking on additional responsibilities;
4. The continued delay of the implementation of a planned new curriculum.

CAPR RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM:

CAPR recommends the continuation of the program without modification. CAPR concurs with the Department's decision to implement their long-planned curriculum changes as part of the semester conversion process. Each program should continue to assess at least one student learning outcome annually, and share with CAPR its progress on the assessment of the Oral Communication General Education Outcome in collaboration with the General Education Program. CAPR recommends that the department continue to seek funding to support facilities upgrades as well as continue to advocate for the five additional tenure-track faculty positions that have been proposed. When hiring for new faculty positions, the department should continue to seek to expand the diversity of its faculty.

YEAR OF NEXT REVIEW:

2021-2022