

DESIGNATION CODE: 01-02 CAPR 8DATE SUBMITTED: May 9, 2002

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Resources

SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review of the Department of Sociology and Social Services

**ACTION**

REQUESTED: Approval of the Five-Year Program Review of the Department of Sociology and Social Services

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Department of Sociology and Social Services offers a B.A. degree in Sociology and Social Services, with two options, and a Masters degree in Sociology. The department provides students with an understanding of workings of social institutions, patterns of group life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. The department has 12 TT faculty and 4 lecturers. Approximately one third of the FTES is taught by part-time faculty members. As of the 2001 statistics, the department has 230 undergraduate sociology majors, and 12 graduate students. The department makes a large contribution to General Education, and plays an important role in providing educational breadth to non-majors. The department has submitted the following documents to CAPR as part of the 1996-2001 Review:

- \* The Department's 2002 Self-Study
- \* Program goals and learning outcomes
- \* Academic Performance Review Statistics
- \* The Department's Five-Year Plan
- \* The 2001 External Review, by Jane E. Prather
- \* The Department's Response to the External Reviewer's Report

**FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW**

Since the last program review in 96-97, the department has maintained its goal of providing a strong sociological education and the emphasis on social and cultural diversity in its curriculum and among its faculty and students. The 1996-97 plan had indicated needs for new tenure-track faculty to preserve the integrity of the existing programs, to expand the offerings in social services, and to attract new students. The need for tenure-track faculty and other resources has not been eliminated, and has become more severe. As a result of attrition and assigned administrative posts, the department has fewer full-time faculty members than it had in 1996. However, the other goals have been met, including: 1) expanding opportunities for students to use more computer technologies, and 2) reducing the student/faculty ratio.

The number of undergraduate majors has dropped from 262 in fall 97 to 230 in fall 2001. It is the fifth largest undergraduate major in ALSS. The number of graduate students has dropped from 16 to 12. The department attributes the drop to: 1) a drop in the number of sections offered, and 2) changes in the Criminal Justice major requirements replacing the Criminology course and other courses with new ones. Average section size of courses has dropped from 38.2 in 95 to 32.3 in 99. The department is proud of its ethnic and gender diversity among faculty and Sociology and Social Services majors.

When comparing the Hayward campus' Sociology and Social Services Department with other campuses in the CSU system, Hayward places a strong emphasis on social diversity. Although the department is smaller than some other campuses, the department, like other campuses, makes a substantial contribution to the university's FTES. Considering the fact that CSUH has separate departments of Criminal Justice, Human Development and Ethnic Studies, which overlap with sociology, the department's contribution is noticeable. While the Hayward campus does not have an accredited Bachelor of Social Work program, the department is one of the few within the system that incorporates a substantial number of social service courses into its curriculum. The Hayward Sociology major requires 61 course units, which is one of the more rigorous programs in the system (the number of units varies from 40 to 79.5). The department places emphasis on both qualitative and quantitative methods. Hayward is one of the eleven campuses with a graduate program in Sociology.

Because the major only requires students to take 61 units, the reduction in the total number of units required for graduation by CSU policy from 186 to 180 will be accompanied by a loss in elective courses for Sociology and Social Services undergraduates.

The department is proud of its achievements. Achievements include: 1) changes in the curriculum (the revised major maintains the department focus on diversity and the number of units required); changes in the Sociology option (modified or added a number of new courses); 2) participation in the new General Education "cluster program"; 3) grants received by members of the department; 4) faculty professional activities; 5) external honors received by students, including participation of students as community liaison, being accepted in Ph.D. and other graduate programs; 6) changes in location or mode of instructional delivery; 7) use of Distance Learning; and 8) the Graduate Program. The department is in the process of developing and implementing an assessment program designed to improve teaching, student learning, and the quality of programs.

#### OUTSIDE REVIEWER'S COMMENTS AND THE DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE

Dr. Jane E. Prather, Chair of the Department of Sociology at California State University, Northridge, completed an onsite evaluation of the Department in spring 2002. The reviewer indicates that the Sociology and Social Services Department is an excellent department in terms of its high-achieving, scholarly faculty, and its undergraduate and graduate program. Dr. Prather recommends maintaining the MSW program within the department, updating faculty computers, expanding office space, increasing travel funds, seeking an additional faculty position in research methods, and designing internships for undergraduate and graduate students. The Department acknowledges the recommendations and indicates that it is taking measures to improve or accommodate all of the recommendations.

#### FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The department has established a plan for the next five years. The plan includes: 1) changes in the curriculum, based on the data gathered from the assessment plan's implementation; 2) strengthening the graduate program through recruiting efforts; 3) anticipation of the increased enrollment of students and expanding service role for non-majors; 4) outreach efforts; 5) scheduling of courses as necessary, especially for off-campus courses; 6) retention of students; 7) faculty recruitment; and 8) striving for resources.

#### CAPR RECOMMENDATION

CAPR recommends approval of the Five-year Program Review of the Department of Sociology and Social Services, and continuation of the program without modification.

The date of the programs' next Five-Year Review will be 2006-2007.