

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

DESIGNATION CODE: 06-07 CAPR 14

DATE SUBMITTED: June 30, 2007

TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Resources
SUBJECT: Five-Year Program Review for the Liberal Studies Program
PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION

REQUESTED: Acceptance of the Five-Year Program Review of Liberal Studies and approval of the continuation of the program without modification

Executive Summary

The Liberal Studies Major aims to provide a rich educational experience through coursework in a broad range of academic disciplines. The student is guaranteed a breadth of academic experience, as well as depth in a single field. The Blended Liberal Studies/Credential Program offers selected students interested in a teaching career an opportunity for concurrent subject matter and professional preparation. The broad-based, interdisciplinary nature of Liberal Studies provides a knowledge base and the communication and analytical skills appropriate to many careers and occupations. Hence, the Liberal Studies major is excellent preparation not only for teaching, but for graduate work, for law school, and for employment in business and government.

The Liberal Studies Program consists of a Director, Academic Advisor, Student Services Professional and Administrative Support Assistant. The program currently has 704 Bachelors Degree students and 3 postbaccalaureate students.

During the previous five year period the program has made several changes to improve its structure and function. The program revised the structure of the major, expanded staff, and developed an accelerated program to enable selected students to earn a BA in Liberal Studies and a multiple subject teaching credential. For the coming five year period the program has identified three areas for development: 1) complete the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing review process, 2) participate in the CSU-wide Lower Division Transfer Pattern for Non-integrated Teacher Preparation, and 3) assess the new curriculum and make minor revisions as needed.

CAPR Recommendation For Continuation Of The Program

CAPR recommends continuation of the BA in Liberal Studies without modification.

Date of the Program's next Academic Review

The date of the new Five Year Review of the program is 2010-2011.

CAPR Report

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Overview description of the program:

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The report of the Outside Reviewer, Dr. Shelley Stone, noted the changes in the Liberal Studies Program and commented positively on them. In particular, the Outside Reviewer commented on the increased staffing (from part time positions to full time positions), the curricular changes, and the Blended Program. He noted that information on articulation with area community colleges was lacking. Dr. Stone reported a positive perception of the Liberal Studies Program, from her review and from discussions with faculty, staff and students. He offered seven recommendations for improvement in the areas of curriculum, assessment, and its status within the College.

1.2 Overview of the documents submitted to CAPR:

As required, the report to CAPR included a self study; and a five year planning process document, an outside review, and a departmental response.

2. FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW/SELF-STUDY (2000-2006) AND FIVE YEAR PLAN (2006-2010)

2.1 Summary of specific areas of the Self-Study

- **Summary of last program review and plan.** This section described changes in three areas identified in the previous five year plan: staffing, new content standards for the major, and development of an accelerated program. The program identified changes in each of these areas.
- **Progress toward the previous plan.** Recommended changes in all three areas were implemented during the past five years. Two part time staff positions were reclassified and

upgraded to full time and a third staff position was added. The major was revised and submitted to CTCC for approval. An accelerated program was developed, known as the Blended Program, designed primarily for transfer students, and was implemented on both the Hayward and Concord campuses.

- **Outcomes assessment.** The CSET has been determined as the most efficient manner of assessing program effectiveness. Data collection will begin with implementation of the new major curriculum revisions.
- **Academic performance statistics.** The program noted a decline in the number of majors over the past five years. They have suggested three reason for this and plan to investigate further.
- **Comparison with sister campuses.** The Liberal Studies Program compares favorably with sister campuses at San Jose State University and San Francisco Sate University. In addition, the program has worked in conjunction with Liberal Studies Program Directors from across the state of California to agreed-upon transfer semester units.
- **Achievements since the last Five Year Review.** The program noted six achievements since the last five year review: 1) revised curriculum, 2) participated with other programs in state-wide guidelines, 3) added a cohort of students in the Blended Program, 4) received scholarships for students in the Blended Program, 5) articulated an agreement with one community college, and) established an online advising center.
- **Number of units for degree.** The range of quarter units for a degree in Liberal Arts is 172-192. Students will exceed the university requirement of 180 units only if they select a higher unit count minor to fulfill Area X requirement, Depth of Study

2.1 Summary of supporting data

The program presented data to support strong yet declining enrollment. The program and the Outside Reviewer suggested reasons for this decline, yet view it more as a trend in the profession rather than a deficit in the Liberal Studies Program. Nonetheless, the program will investigate further and also increase recruitment efforts to increase the number of majors.

California State University, East Bay

Liberal Studies

A. Students	Fall Quarter					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1. Undergraduate		1022	955	873	704	704
2. Graduate		6	7	3	3	3
3. Total Number of Majors		1028	962	876	707	707
4. FTES Generated		884	838	750	662	610

B. Degrees Awarded	College Years					
	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
1. Undergraduate			327	329	316	246
2. Graduate						0
3. Total			327	329	316	246

3. OUTSIDE REVIEWER'S COMMENTS & THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE

3.1 Outside Reviewer's Report

An Outside Review was conducted by Dr. Shelley Stone, Chair of the Liberal Studies Program at California State University Bakersfield, on October 26th and 27th, 2006. Dr. Stone had a positive opinion of the department, noting its, "unity of purpose and teamwork". In his review, Dr. Stone discussed program staffing, the declining number of majors, curriculum revision and currency, the Blended Program, articulation with community colleges, the field experience, assessment, supplemental authorization tracks and the general education track. He offered nine recommendations and observations.

- Hire an advisor at the Concord campus
- Bring the Blended Program into compliance with unit limit mandated by CSU Academic Senate and Chancellors Office
- Bring the program into compliance with the LDTP for transfer students
- Expand field experience opportunities
- Add program assessment activities to the CSET
- Reestablish a general track for interested students
- The program is stable and of good quality; consider establishing a non-credential track, and supplemental authorization degree tracks in math, science and English
- Consider moving from program to department status

3.2 Program response to the Outside Reviewer's Report

In the response to the Outside Reviewer's Report, the Liberal Studies Program noted with pleasure the generally positive tone of Dr. Stone's report. The program carefully reviewed Dr. Stone's findings and recommendations, and from that has identified nine goals for the next review period:

- 1) Adjust the program's unit count to fit into the state-mandated count of 203
- 2) Confirm adherence to LDTP and statewide articulation patterns
- 3) Revise major to include increased experience in elementary classrooms
- 4) Develop robust recruitment program
- 5) Develop supplemental authorization tracks within the Integrated Program
- 6) Improve assessment plan and explore portfolio project for summative assessment
- 7) Explore expansion of staff at Concord campus
- 8) Consider restructuring major into three tracks
- 9) Explore moving from program status to department status

4. PROGRAM'S FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2006-2011)

4.1 Overview

The program recognizes the problem of declining enrollment and plans to focus on several activities to reverse the recent trend of enrollment decline. For example, the program will establish stronger links among high schools and community colleges to increase enrollment.

4.2 Curriculum

No major changes to curriculum are intended, given the recent major revision. Minor modifications will be made as needed and the primary task will be to continue to shepherd the program through the CGTCC review process and alignment with the LDTP.

4.3 Students

The program, similar to other Liberal Studies programs, has experienced an enrollment decline. Halting and reversing that trend will be a primary focus in the coming five years. Several activities

to address this are planned, such as increased advising hours, and developing the program's web presence, and expanding the Blended Program.

4.4 Resources

Program staffing increased to three full time staff reporting to the Liberal Studies Director, which has allowed the program to meet its advising needs. At present the program requires no additional resources.

5. CAPR ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRAM'S FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

5.1 Program

CAPR believes the Liberal Studies program is a strong program with a realistic view of itself. It has noted, in particular, the declining enrollment pattern and is seeking to understand it within the confines of the larger arena of Liberal Studies Programs and Departments. The program is taking steps to reverse this trend. CAPR further believes that the program is current in its curricular offerings, as evidenced by its recent curricular modification. The department is also sensitive to the need to work within a larger educational unit (i.e. CCTC) to provide breadth and depth in education.

CAPR notes that student recruitment efforts should be paramount in the coming five year period. IT also notes that the program should diligently work to advance its presence on the web and in online advising.

5.2 Resources

It appears that that the program's resources are sufficient if it maintains the current level of curricular offerings. One area where resources should be increased is advising at the Concord campus in order to increase enrollment at that location.

5.3 Assessment

The Liberal Studies has an assessment plan that relies primarily on results of the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET). In addition, students applying for a credential also complete a Summative Assessment activity and a Portfolio. Grading rubrics for the Summative Assessment and the Portfolio were not presented.

The program has a list of student learning objectives (SLO) listed on its webpage but did not present data on student achievement of these SLOs. The curriculum was recently revised and outcome data reflecting the success of the revision should appear in the next five year review.

5.4 CAPR Recommendations for the next Five Year Review

- Write measurable Student Learning Objectives
- Gather outcome data for the SLOs across the five year period
- Describe the relationship between the assessment plan, SLOs, outcome data and program modifications
- Continue to track program alignment with credentialing programs
- Conduct planned outreach activities to increase enrollment

CAPR RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM

CAPR recommends continuation of the BA in Liberal Studies without modification.

DATE OF THE PROGRAM'S NEXT ACADEMIC REVIEW

The date of the new Five Year Review of the program is 2010-2011.