

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAYWARD

DESIGNATION CODE: 98-99 CAPR 1

DATE SUBMITTED: January 7, 1999

TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Resources

SUBJECT: Five Year Program Review of the Department of Recreation and Community Services

ACTION

REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the Program Review of the Department of Recreation and Community Services

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In the Fall of 1998, CAPR met with the Chair, as well as the Faculty, from the Department of Recreation and Community Services (henceforth the Department) to discuss the five year review document. This document included a comprehensive self-study, observations of the external reviewer, Dr. Marcia Carter, and lastly, response by the Department to Dr. Carter. Additionally of note, the review packet submitted by this department included the most immediate review reports of RCS, CAPR finds from 1994 to present, and academic performance review statistics, including a strategic future plan for 1995 to 2000. The complete program review is available in the Academic Senate Office.

In all, CAPR concluded that the Department had continued to work well within the broad framework of the University Mission to ensure sound undergraduate education. Furthermore, the Committee members noticed that such mission is being effectively coordinated by the department's parent school, School of Education and Allied Studies.

According to published accounts, the program's curriculum will remain robust. By all professional accounts, the program is expected to grow steadily. The Chair and Faculty noted that the program of recreation will expand to include travel, eco-tourism, and hospitality-related activities and programs related to the ends of demographic life - young (halfway houses) and seniors (geriatric services). Another substantial area of future expansion within the field is its offering of courses related to recreation therapy. They report that "employment for recreation therapists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2005."

The Committee concluded that given the projected curriculum demand, the Department is situated reasonably to provide professional support and supply its curriculum content for the next five years. The Department has put its strategic plan into practice. During the past five years, it restructured the curriculum to include experiential learning, community-based service learning, and volunteer, mentor and entrepreneurial activities. Currently, the Department offers a B.S. in Recreation, minors in Recreation and Environmental Recreation, options in Environmental Recreation and Recreation Therapy, and certificate programs in Adult Community Education, Commercial Recreation, Therapeutic Recreation, and Volunteer Administration. Since the Fall of 1997, computer skills have been incorporated into the Department's curriculum: Recreation 4005, Computers in Recreation.

The Department's SFR has ranged from 23.2 in 1990-91 to 20.1 in 1994-95. During these five-year time series data, the Department's SFR was significantly higher than that of other comparable CSU System-wide statistics. In 1994-95, the Department generated a total of 96.5 FTES with 4.8 FTEF. During the same year, 1 of 10 courses was taught by a part-time faculty member. Also by 1994-95, social composition of the majors had become diverse. About three out of five majors were minority members.

The CAPR members reviewed these data with favor. The Committee found that enrollment figures matched well with the curriculum demand. The committee members were particularly taken ~~in~~ by the statement that the Department did not need additional resources at this time.

The School and the Department had invited Dr. Marcia Jean Carter, Re.D., CLP, CTRS, from Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, to review the Program. Dr. Carter organized the review according to the criteria enunciated by the Council on Accreditation of the National Recreation and Park Association and the Park Association, American Association for Leisure and Recreation. In addition, Dr. Carter considered the standards set by the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. The external reviewer was supplied with the department-based self study and on-site meetings with Dean Arthurlene Towner, faculty members, and the department's Advisory Committee, consisting of alumni, intern supervisors and students, and employers. In all, the external reviewer concluded favorable that the present curriculum matched with that of career demands. The Reviewer was most impressed with the diverse student majors, technology and the experiential resources, faculty "passion and commitment," and the Institute of Adventure Challenge. Dr. Carter would want faculty members to be involved in the "on-going cross-campus" matters and develop an assessment measure.

The Department responded by counting (more than 64) committee memberships by the faculty members. The faculty members are currently developing an assessment plan which will become operational by 1999-2000.

The CAPR members reviewed the systematic nature - preparation, conduct, and post-evaluation - of the External Review process. The Committee found them to be wholly satisfactory.

In sum, CAPR members voted to recommend that the Academic Senate approve, without modification, the Program Review conducted by the Department of Recreation and Community Services.