Present:  Kim Geron, Political Science  
Jiansheng Guo, Human Development  
Barbara Hall, Philosophy  
Tony Lima, Economics  
Jason Singley, Physics  
Linda Smetana, TED  
Aline Soulis, Library, Chair  
Jay Tontz, CBE  
Margaret Wright, Nursing  

Colin Ormsby, Presidential Appointee  

Apologies: 

Absent:  Denise Wong, EOP  

Guests:  Jim Okutsu, CLASS  
Dave Larson, Chair, Geography & Environmental Studies  
Michael Lee, Geography & Environmental Studies  
Karina Gabesi, Geography & Environmental Studies  
Laurie Price, Anthropology  
Laura Nelson, Anthropology  
Janet Patterson, CLASS  
Ben Bowser, CLASS  
Carl Bellone, AVP Graduate Studies & Academic Programs  

Meeting convened at 2:08 pm  

AGENDA  

1. Approval of the Agenda  

Approved unanimously. Moved Tontz, seconded Smetana  

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2008
The CAPR chair requested that minutes from the April 17, 2008 be delayed until the May 8, 2008 meeting.

3. Report of the Chair

The chair announced the next CAPR meeting, May 8th, will be in the Library conference room.

4. Report of the Presidential appointee

No report given.

5. Old Business [NOTE: topics will be interspersed with the new reviews]
   a. CAPR report for Kinesiology – status update
   b. CAPR report for Chemistry – status update (if needed)
   c. CAPR process recommendation report

6. New business
   a. Geography/Environmental Studies five year review (time certain 2 p.m.)

Opening comments of David Larson, Chair of Geography & Environmental Studies

The chair of the Geography & Environmental Studies (GES) began by reviewing the department’s accomplishments and recent history.

He began by pointing out that GES was one of only two departments in CLASS that grants both a BA and BS degree. Currently the program has six tenured faculty. The department also administers the Environmental Studies program although is shares the responsibilities for the courses offered in this program with other academic departments in the University.

He admitted that the department faced a decline in majors in the late 1990s. He attributed the decline the introduction of the Cluster courses for first time freshmen and sophomores. Prior to the introduction of the Cluster GES taught a number of General Education courses to first time freshmen and sophomores. As GES did not fit easily into the Cluster program the department was unable to participate. He felt that the department got many of their majors from students who participated in these introduction courses. The loss of those introductory courses impacted the department’s number of majors. At one point the department went from about 100 majors to about 45.

However, when the sophomore cluster program was discontinued they began to again offer general courses. They are not yet sure they will glean many majors from this but they are hopeful. They have not found a way to reach freshmen however.
In addition to offering courses to sophomores the department has also refashioned the curriculum to make sure it is attentive to 21st century issues in both geography and environmental studies.

The outside reviewer recommended that the department add courses to the major requirements. The members felt that the department’s current curricular offerings are adequate and do not feel the need to change the curriculum at this time.

The outside reviewer also recommends that the departments GIS lab needs to be remodeled and expanded. The department agrees with this recommendation.

In response to the last five year plan, the chair commented that it had only been two years since the department had gone through its last CAPR review. They had gotten off track for their last review due to a number of obligations. As a result of being off track the department had to come after only two years. Because it had only been two years since their last review they had not accomplished all they intended to accomplish.

Dr. Michael Lee’s comments:

Dr. Lee also feels that the GIS lab is important. He commented that the department wants to create world citizens and they are interested in internationalizing the curriculum. The notion of sustainability is important and something on which they should firmly base the curriculum.

He said that he too did not think the increase in requirement in the major was realistic given that many of their majors are transfers and there are few courses offered at community colleges in the major. In light of that fact he thought the addition of units would be onerous.

Dr. Karina Garbesi’s comments:

Dr. Garbesi commented that the department had revamped Environmental Studies a few years ago. She said they have to do that frequently given the changes in the field. With the increase in interest in sustainability they see more courses being offered at the community colleges which should benefit the major. There is also a lot interest in the field externally.

Dr. Jim Okutsu’s, Assistant Dean of CLASS, comments:

Dr. Okutsu said that he was present at CAPR to support the department. With regard to the enrollment, the department has been consistently healthy across the quarters. They have requested a tenure track position and sent the request was sent to the Provost’s office.

Larson indicated he may have been overly pessimistic about the possibility of expanding the GIS lab. There is a chance that they may be able to expand to an adjoining room,
which is currently used by another department that is too small for its current use as well. If an appropriate replacement room is found for the other department, GES may be able to expand into that space increasing the size of the GIS lab.

Questions for CAPR committee members:

A CAPR committee member asked how the department’s plan responded to the Academic Plan put forth by the University in February 2008.

Larson indicated that the department’s five year plan responded well to most if not all elements of the new Academic Plan. Elements such as global awareness environmental awareness and sustainability were all embodied in GES’ plan. Beyond those just listed are also the department’s contribution to the General Education program in both social science and science. The major also trains graduates who are environmental professionals. He thinks the department contributes to all seven mandates that are the cornerstone of the Academic Plan.

CAPR member Lima urged the department pursue the remodel of the GIS lab as fast as possible.

CAPR Chair Soules asked why GES students were taking jobs and then not finishing their degree. She asked if there way to work with employers to help students finish their degree?

Larson said there are not a lot of majors in the department to begin with so the actual number of majors who do not finish is not that large. Students in the major develop skills that are highly prized by the business world so they get lured away before they finish their degree.

CAPR member Wright asked how the department interacts with the health science and other environmental programs.

Garbesi said the department no longer does environmental health.

CAPR chair Soules asked what are the top three things the department would want CAPR to highlight

Larson responded.

1. GIS lab
2. Core faculty
3. CAPR support for curriculum revision and course review
b. Anthropology five year review (time certain 3 p.m.)

Convened at 3:03 pm.

Opening remarks of Dr. Laura Nelson, Anthropology:

Dr. Nelson explained that the Anthropology department had begun the CAPR review process in the spring 2007. They continued the process with an all day departmental retreat in fall of 2007 and a half day retreat in January of 2008. Their new faculty member who will not start until the fall of 2008 participated in those retreats even though he has not officially started.

She continued to describe how the Anthropology department contributes to the University. The courses help students broaden their view of the world. The department contributes not only to its own majors, but also to the GE program (they offered about 171 GE courses) and a diversity of majors including nursing.

She acknowledged that the majority of their students complete their formal pursuit of anthropology with a BA. She indicated, however, that anthropology teaches students a number of talents that will be useful in the real world.

She admitted that at times the department faced challenges and that at one point in 2002 they were down to only two full time faculty. They have, however, hired two new faculty and the department is experiencing a bounce back. She also pointed out that the department now had leave to be a stand alone department again.

CAPR committee member Singley pointed out the report indicated there were space and resource issues for the department. He asked about the lack of buy out time for faculty, loss of departmental lounge when it merged, and office space. He asked if any of these resources will returned.

Beeson said that is a part of the approval process. The department will get some buy out time for the chair like other academic departments. There will also be a position to be shared between sociology and anthropology. She felt confident there will be adequate support and chair time.

Nelson also indicated that they are making progress in the goals they have set for themselves as a department. The department did achieve 9 of the 23 goals they previously set for themselves. She pointed out the undergraduate program had grown and the reason for the shrinking of the graduate program had to do with encouraging students who had remained in the program much longer than normal to complete their degree.

She also pointed out the large contribution the department makes to the University’s FTES.
She did feel as though the department had dropped the ball in some areas of assessment. They did implement an assessment test, but they did not have the resources to analyze it. They have now implemented a new assessment plan.

The external reviewer was largely positive. The reviewer did suggest a reduction in the credits in minor was a good idea.

There is consensus in the department that they are on the right track want to get to 6 faculty and 45 to 50 undergraduate students, and about 20 graduate students.

Nelson closed by say that she feels that the department is not asking for resources from the University that are unreasonable. They do not think they will get everything they ask for but they hope to keep those requests active until such time as the University addresses them.

Questions from the CAPR committee members:

CAPR committee member Singley asked about the outside reviewer’s recommendation that the department had too many different areas and that perhaps the department should narrow its focus.

Nelson said the department disagreed with that recommendation. She felt that if the department were bigger perhaps they could specialize in a certain fields. She feels they are better to diversify.

Dr. Laurie Price of the Anthropology department said they have revamped the idea of having graduate students doing the longer university thesis because of the toll on the faculty and students.

A CAPR committee member indicated that there is no structural support for mentoring a thesis in the CSU, and asked why the department chooses to have one?

Price indicated that part of it was due to idealism not pragmatism and it is very engaging for faculty. In response to the concern that the faculty are spreading themselves too then, they responded that they do not feel that they are spread too thin.

CAPR member Hall asked if there were a benefit to undergraduate program if you got rid of the graduate program.

Nelson said that they felt it would not be beneficial to the undergraduates because the presence of graduate students in the department raises the bar for the undergraduates.

CAPR chair Soules raised concerns on the number of goals the department has set for itself given the number of activities in which they are already engaged. She suggested that the department prioritize the goals.
Nelson pointed out that only 22 goals that are not resource goals to be provided by the University and that the department had already fulfilled two of the remaining goals and they will prioritize the rest.

Soules asked the department to give them the three elements CAPR should emphasize it its report?

The department members indicated the following:

1. Tenure track positions;
2. Securing office staff;
3. Space for the museum and more lab space; and
4. More buy out time for the museum director who now only gets 4 WTU per year which is not enough.

   c. CBE discontinuance requests (if available)

Not addressed

7. Other business

None indicated

8. Adjournment

Time: 3:56 pm

Respectfully submitted by Colin Ormsby, CAPR secretary