

Executive Summary

Q: A brief recap or highlights of the entire program review document. (500 words or less)

- Highlight major strengths and weakness.
- Highlight areas for improvement over the next 3-6 years.

Response:

The biggest strength of the Biology Department is our unequivocal commitment to our mission and goals. Our department is committed to the excellence of our instruction and the integrity of our programs. The student survey results have shown that the students are satisfied with our instructional quality and offerings. The success and retention rate of most of our courses is close to or above the college average despite our vigorous program and high academic standards. Our department has worked extremely hard to provide additional academic service to help student success through tutoring and workshops. The department has made extensive revision to our Physiology 1 and Biology 7 classes. All course outlines are updated and the course content is current and relevant. The department has followed our SLO assessment plan closely. To promote transfer culture, the department has obtained NIH-UCLA Bridges and NIH -Build@CSUN grants. In addition, the department plans to offer AS-T degree in fall 2016. The department has worked well with Job Training and Student Services. Faculty members are active in mentoring students and serve as advisors to the PESSA Club and Garden Club.

We also face challenges. The department increased our class offering from 13.6 FTEF in fall 2010 to 20 FTEF in fall 2015. However, the number of our full-time faculty has failed to increase due to retirement. The department has struggled to hire qualified adjunct professors because of the high student demands in Biology 3 and Anatomy 1 in the Los Angeles area. In the past three semesters, one adjunct professor quit teaching in the middle of a semester. While the college has been struggling to meet its FTES target, our department has run into great difficulty meeting tremendous student demand for our Biology 3 and Anatomy 1. We turned away 824 Biology 3 students and 310 Anatomy 1 students in 2015. The department was forced to turn down the growth Biology 3 and Anatomy 1 classes in fall 2015, because we could not find faculty to teach them. Our laboratory support team has lost a half B shift position and a reduced 12 month position to 10 month position. The department lost funding to purchase equipment during this program review cycle. We are in need of more supplies to match our increased class offerings. Lack of full-time instructors, laboratory support, equipment, supplies and space severely endangers the department's ability to fulfill our mission and goals.

The Biology Department will continue our best effort to provide opportunities for our students to achieve their educational goals. To do this, we need at least 15 full-time faculty members and increased laboratory support staff. We want to secure more classroom space and supplies so that we can provide more classes especially in Biology 3 and Anatomy 1. We plan to increase tutoring to increase student success without lowering our academic standards.

Participants

Q: Please indicate the individuals that participated in the completion of this program review.

Response:

Validation & Feedback

Validation Comments for Program

Q:

Response:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->This module adequately summarizes the program review. -MJ *Reviewed. KD

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Comments for Review Committees

Q:

Response:

- This module adequately summarizes the program review. -MJ