

Program Performance Review: Culmination Meeting Memo Chicana and Chicano Studies BA

The 2022-2023 Program Performance Review (PPR) process for the Chicana and Chicano Studies BA program in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) concluded with a culmination meeting on February 23, 2024.

The following people attended the meeting: Amir Dabirian (Provost), Eileen Walsh (AVP for Academic Programs, AVPAP), Merri Lynn Casem (AVP for Undergraduate Studies and GE, AVPUSGE), Jessica Stern (Interim Dean, HSS), Carl Wendt (Interim Associate Dean), Eddy Alvarez (Department Chair), and Su Swarat (Senior AVP for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, SAVPIEP).

The Provost commended the program for successfully completing the program review process and receiving great feedback from the external reviewers. The program has made significant contributions to the university and the community. The following specific accomplishments were highlighted during the PPR process:

- The department is critical in providing general education courses, particularly in Area F.
- The department has increased tenure-track faculty lines and hired new faculty.
- There is clear commitment to continuous improvement, particularly in terms of the curriculum. Various efforts to ensure relevance and alignment, utilize alternative teaching spaces, and incorporate the specialties of new faculty are underway.
- The department embraces community-engaged, public-facing research and teaching, and is committed to fostering student success and producing engaged scholarship, as noted in their willingness to increase their involvement with the new Latinx Labs. The department sets an excellent example of higher impact practice for others.
- The department and its leadership are committed to building and sustaining a sense of community, as seen through the adoption of processes that encourage collaboration and collegiality, an intentional and transparent approach to making equitable committee assignments, faculty governance, and more.
- Majoring in Chicano/a Studies positively impacts students' sense of identity, community commitment, and societal role.

Major recommendations and issues raised through the accreditation process were discussed as follows:

1. Enrollment growth:
 - The PPR process raised the need for the program to continue increasing its number of majors and minors. One recommended strategy is to consider creating stronger relationships with local Community Colleges.
 - The Dean recommended the program to be more strategic and creative in identifying potential minors/double-majors, not just considering possibilities within HSS but also across the university.
 - The Chair concurred and commented that Area F courses are good places to attract minors/double-majors. For example, the course Chicano Environmentalism helps attract STEM students.

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- In terms of Community College outreach, the Chair commented that the department would like to do so, but capacity is an issue. Resources and help are needed in this regard.
 - o The Provost recommended the department to consider engaging lecturers in this capacity, and offered marketing help from the Provost's Office. He also recommended the department to think about "rebranding" its degrees to help connect with and attract young students.
 - o The Associate Dean reported that the college, through its "Growth Fellows" initiative, is working to provide support in this regard as well.
 - o The AVPUSGE reported that she is working on a Community College program mapper project to align the CSUF curriculum with the Community College's, which can be used as a resource.
- The SAVPIEP recommended the department to grow alumni mentoring opportunities, which is part of the university strategic plan.
 - o The Dean reported that the college as a "Passage to the Future" program that supports this effort.
 - o The AVPAP recommended the department to focus especially on alumni who teach in the Community Colleges, and consider offering a certificate on ethnic studies to help people get teaching positions. The Dean commented that work along these lines is underway with EIP.

2. Curriculum:

- The external reviewers recommended the program to continue revising curriculum by scaffolding across courses to ensure that the curriculum builds from introductory theories and content, adding scaffolding through course numbering and pre-requisites, and providing clarity in curriculum maps/required courses, and increasing high-impact practices.
- The Chair reported that a 2023 summer retreat took place, where the faculty engaged in facilitated conversations regarding curriculum change. The program updated its SLOs, and plans to have another retreat to continue the conversation.
- The AVPUSGE commended the department for having a strong history of service learning, and inquired whether additional experiential learning opportunities are being planned.
 - o The Chair reported that the program has dedicated faculty member to oversee service learning and the current model is sustainable. The department would like to bring back student organizations to further integrate students into the department.
 - o The Chair also shared the faculty are engaged in other high impact practices, including a recent exhibit at the Museum of Social Justice, digital humanities projects, and oral history projects.
 - o The Chair voiced the need for resources to elevate these experiential learning opportunities, including funding, release time, and GA support. The Dean acknowledged these needs.

3. GE changes:

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- The AVPUSGE inquired how the department is preparing for the upcoming GE changes, possibly enrollment loss for the department.
 - The Provost and the Dean recommended the program to consider creating cross-discipline courses or bring guest speakers from different disciplines to make courses attractive to students. The Provost also suggested the department to think of developing joint certificate with another department, or offering courses that are required as a part of another department's majors or minors.
 - The AVPAP pointed out that the GE courses and major courses seem to have significant overlap, and recommended the department to distinguish the two.
 - o The Chair acknowledged the concern, and reported that the faculty are considering offering one course for major and a parallel course for GE at the same time.
4. Space needs:
- The PPR pointed out the need to secure sufficient physical space to meet the needs of an expanding department and its instruction and curricular activities.
 - o The Chair stated that the department needs a "hand out" space for the students to support a sense of community, and spaces for lecturers (currently sharing 2 cubicles among 42 lecturers).
 - o The Provost recommended the department to work through the Dean's office, and believes space will open up after the planned summer move in the HSS building.
 - The Chair also raised the need for more tenured/tenure-track faculty, more office staff, and more support for faculty to engage in various services (e.g. search committee, mentoring programs).
 - o The Dean is committed to more conversations along these lines, and will look into the possibility of using Area F funds to support these needs.

The Provost concluded the meeting by thanking the Chair for his leadership and the faculty for their hard work. The Dean commended the department for their contributions to the students and the university.