

Program Performance Review: Culmination Meeting Memo Computer Science, B.S. Program

The 2014-2015 Program Performance Review (PPR) process for the B.S. Program in Computer Science concluded with a culmination meeting on October 30, 2015.

The program submitted ABET reaccreditation materials in lieu of the PPR documents. At the meeting, the program was commended for completing the reaccreditation process.

The major recommendations and concerns raised through the reaccreditation process were discussed. Suggestions on how to address them were provided:

1. Assessment:

- The Deputy Provost emphasized the university's support for faculty assessment liaisons in the colleges. The program is encouraged to work with the ECS liaison, Dr. Binod Tiwari, to ensure that appropriate assessment process is implemented. The Director of OAEE also offered to help with the program's assessment effort.
- Department chair provided updates on assessment – The program has completed curriculum mapping, aligning the SLOs to the courses. A workshop was offered to the faculty on embedding assessment in the core courses. The chair felt that there is sufficient support for assessment data collection this semester. A senior faculty member (Dr. James Choi) has been designated as the assessment coordinator for the year, who confirmed that an assessment manual has been created and distributed to faculty.
- The Dean reminded the program of the “closing the loop” step of turning data into improvement actions. ABET is looking for evidence of intentional improvement. While the Dean commended the program for its assessment plan, he cautioned the program to not over-burden the faculty with extensive data collection. The key is not to collect a lot of data, but to think about how to use them.

2. Student advisement:

- The department chair commented that the ABET self-study neglected to mention university or college-level advising, which contributed to the reviewers' concerns. The program offers sufficient hours of advisement per year, but needs to spread it out more strategically throughout the year to ensure that students get advising in their desired timeframe.
- The program is in the process of discussing how to allocate the identified 109 advisement hours/semester among faculty, and how to better coordinate hours with students. The program expressed desire for more tenured/tenure-track faculty to fulfill advising and other service requirements.
- The Dean emphasized that there are a lot of student success initiatives going on at the college level, and recommended the program to elaborate on them in the next self-study. The Dean concurred with the program that more faculty advisors are needed, and would like resource/support from the university.
- The Deputy Provost shared the model of paying lecturers stipends for advising during high-demand times.

3. Recruitment of full-time faculty:

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- The Dean commented that Computer Science intends to hiring 2-3 faculty this year, but recruitment has not been successful in the past. He suggested ways to truly gauge candidates' interest in CSUF before bringing them on campus.
- The Dean also raised the dilemma that new tenure-track faculty take away resources from the part-time faculty pool, which limits the department's ability to offer courses. This is particularly an issue for ECS as there are relatively few GE courses (which generates FTES and thus funding for faculty hire).
- The department chair acknowledged that many mainstream CS courses are not taught by tenure/tenure-track faculty (e.g. 100-, 200- or 500-level courses). These faculty are mostly in 300-, 400- and online courses. The department is currently seeking ways to establish course leads, in hope that they can provide better supervision and coordination of part-time faculty.
- The department chair also emphasized the value of 400- and 500-level courses being taught by industry experts, which is an asset, not a weakness, that should be discussed in the next self-study.