



May 8, 2017

Gerontology Academic Program
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To: Sheryl Fontaine, Dean, College of Humanities & Social Sciences

From: Laura Zettel-Watson, Coordinator, Gerontology Academic Program

Re: Program's Response to the Dean's Evaluation of the Gerontology Academic Program's Program Performance Review (PPR)

On behalf of the Gerontology Academic Program, I would like to thank you for providing your feedback. We appreciate the commendations, especially those regarding our high-quality curriculum and our effective and committed Program Council. We are encouraged by your continued support and guidance and we offer our responses to your recommendations below.

1. The Program Council should develop job descriptions for its staff and faculty positions (e.g., coordinator, associate coordinator, advisor).

This is in progress; we will compile this information and schedule a follow-up meeting with the Dean and/or Associate Deans to further discuss. We understand this is necessary for balancing resources and meeting program needs and we appreciate the opportunity for a staffing-related dialogue. You joined with the external reviewers in commending our intention to achieve Program of Merit and AGHE Accreditation. We wish to discuss these projects as part of the greater dialogue, including possible course releases related to working on these year-long endeavors.

2. Work to collaborate with other campus programs that focus on aging to build ties and foster mutual support.

Although our Program Council is comprised of interdisciplinary faculty and select chairs have collaborated with us on curriculum, we generally lack support from campus chairs, advisors, and deans, in part due to a lack of awareness of who we are and what we do. Within the next year, we would like to collaborate with the H&SS Dean's Office on a campus-wide leader's luncheon to discuss ways to integrate gerontology across campus. We want to initiate conversations with respective deans/chairs to explain the merit of gerontology and share creative, innovative ideas for interdisciplinary student and faculty opportunities. Having the H&SS Dean extend invitations to these leaders would lend credence to the event. Further, within the next two years we would like to host a university-wide conference to promote, market, and highlight aging-related efforts at CSUF. We request dedicated time from H&SS's marketing director, grant specialists, development director, and other resources in the college to support these projects.

3. Collaborate with the H&SS Marketing Specialist and Student Success Team to develop comprehensive plans and materials for cross-disciplinary marketing, outreach, recruiting, and advising.

We already have begun working with the H&SS Marketing Director to develop a stream-lined, contemporary Adobe Slate page for marketing our program. He also provided us with direction and training to begin an electronic newsletter. We recently have been made aware of a reserve operating fund for Gerontology; perhaps some of the reserve funds can be used to support a direct marketing campaign for gerontology outreach. We are open to additional suggestions, as well.

4. Work with the Dean's Office to determine whether a 40+ student classroom might be available for the Program's undergraduate course offerings.

Associate Dean Levesque has reached out regarding classroom attainment and the Program will work with him to find a suitable classroom for courses scheduled in Spring 2018 and beyond.

5. Reach out to the Director of Graduate Programs urging that institutional support for data analytics for graduate programs becomes a campus priority.

The Gerontology Program Coordinator will communicate this to the Director of Graduate Programs. We also will vocalize the need for analytic programs to support graduate students in all appropriate campus-wide meetings where the directors and managers of these programs are present.

6. Support for interdisciplinary and cross-college programs.

Regarding identified challenges related to financial and logistical support, and obtaining support from other colleges, we propose a leader's luncheon (as discussed above) to dialogue directly with other deans and department chairs. In addition to promoting the benefits of gerontology for faculty and students across the campus, we will discuss plans for developing a formal mechanism by which faculty from all colleges are recognized for their involvement in interdisciplinary research and teaching activities. Perhaps some of the reserve funds noted above can be used to support faculty participation in this lunch, as well as in aging-related collaborative activities.