

## Program Performance Review Report

### Department of Health Science (HESC)

#### Dean's Response to HESC Self-Study, Reviewer Report, and Departmental Response to Reviewer Report

Submitted by Laurie A. Roades, Dean, College of Health and Human Development  
January 2017

This report is in response to the Program Performance Review (PPR) Self-Study completed by the Department of Health Science (HESC), the report submitted by the review team, and the departmental response to the review team report. The PPR review team included: Dr. Vicki Krenz, Department of Public Health-CSU Fresno; Mr. Jason Lacsamana, M.P.H., St. Joseph Health Community Partnership Fund, and Dr. Erualdo Gonzalez, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies-CSU Fullerton. This report is organized to address general observations, notable strengths, key areas to be addressed, and recommendations.

#### General Observations

The Department of Health Science has provided a thoughtful, well-written, and thorough self study that addresses all areas required for program performance review. These include: 1) department mission, goals, and environment; 2) department description and analysis; 3) student achievement and assessment of learning outcomes; 4) faculty; 5) student support and advising; 6) resources and facilities; and 7) long-term plans. The Department is broadly recognized as a very strong unit within the College of Health and Human Development, with faculty and staff making significant contributions to students, the campus, and the community. Ongoing concerns focus on extensive student growth and the need for additional departmental resources. The Department is to be congratulated for its outstanding performance.

#### Notable Strengths

1. The Department of Health Science has outstanding faculty and strong, effective departmental leadership committed to student, faculty, and staff success. Faculty members are very productive, engaged scholars, widely recognized for their knowledge and expertise. Faculty work closely with undergraduate and graduate students both in and out of the formal classroom and serve as role models for students in public health. The PPR reviewers noted that during their visit students described faculty as “very approachable and highly committed to student learning” and that students “value and admire their instructors extremely highly.” The faculty are to be commended for their

many contributions to students, their disciplines, and the community. The department chair, Dr. Sora Tanjasiri, is also to be applauded for her leadership and efforts to facilitate the ongoing success of this very large department.

2. The Department has worked diligently to re-evaluate and revise the undergraduate curriculum to address new recommendations by the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health. This will ensure that our students receive the most up-to-date and appropriate education and training in public health education. I appreciate the extensive efforts the department is putting forth in this curricular revision.
3. The Department takes assessment and evaluation of student learning seriously and uses this information to improve specific courses and the health science program overall. They have revised their student learning outcomes and evaluation methods and have identified ways to address their objectives. I look forward to their continued progress through the assessment cycle.
4. Student support and advising is critical to student success, as recognized by the Health Science Department. Students are actively engaged in co-curricular activities that support their public health focus and benefit from the opportunity to engage in high impact practices such as research with faculty, service learning, and internships. The department is addressing ongoing advising needs for students and enhancing student internship coordination based on student feedback.
5. The Department has developed worthwhile long-term plans that are consistent with the university and college mission and goals.

#### Key Areas to Be Addressed

1. As noted by both the department and the PPR reviewers, the department has experienced significant growth in student majors and in FTES load during this review period. This pattern needs to be examined and managed effectively.
2. Departmental growth has placed significant strain on faculty and staff workload and on space within the department (e.g., classrooms, faculty offices, lab facilities). The department chair and the department faculty have done a remarkable job in trying to address these issues with the resources available to them. However, this has been an ongoing problem and it is critical that issues regarding the number of tenure-track faculty, staffing needs, and space are effectively resolved in order to better support students, faculty, and staff.
3. Given the proposed changes in the curriculum, the department will need to evaluate them when implemented to determine whether or not they are meeting students'

learning needs and to ensure that students are able to make timely progress through the degree program.

### Recommendations

1. The department and the dean's office need to work collaboratively to determine the optimal size for the department and means of implementing effective growth/enrollment management, as needed. This may include discussion of possible impactation, as recommended by the PPR reviewers, but may also include other strategies, as noted in the departmental response.
2. The department and the dean's office need to determine the resources needed by the department given its current size and develop a plan for providing them. (The dean's office is already reviewing college and department budgets and space allocations for discussion with chairs about how to most effectively and equitably distribute both within the college.)
3. The department chair and the dean need to develop a hiring plan for tenure-track faculty commensurate with the enrollment goals for the department. This includes resources such as the space needed for new hires.
4. Departmental assessment of student learning outcomes should continue to be used to enhance student learning and program effectiveness.
5. The Department already focuses on student success and is working to increase graduation rates, decrease time to graduation, and remove the achievement/opportunity gap experienced by some students in the department (as well as the college and university overall). The department should continue working with the college and university to address these issues on behalf of our students.