PROGRAM REVIEW FALL 2007

VALIDATION TEAM REPORT
Instructional Programs

RESPONSE to Self-Study Report of the **Dance** program

Date: 1/24/08

Validation Team Members (signatures required)

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Faculty

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Validation Questions

1. For the data presented in Tables 1.01A-1.01H, what significant positive or negative trends did you notice which were not adequately addressed?

Previous program plans identified the need to increase evening classes. Budgetary limitations permitted slow growth for the late afternoon/night program, but increasing the number of class offerings in the evening has been successful. The popularity of restored evening offerings can be attributed to the addition of popular new dance courses (Middle Eastern Dance, Hip-hop and Salsa), outreach efforts through the high schools, as well as the addition of two new lecture classes (Dance History & Dance Teaching Methodology).

Evening enrollments were very large in 2003-2004, with one section offered and 92 students enrolled. The reason was not clearly understood, but may have been attributed to part time faculty in the evening taking everyone who showed up into the class.

2. For the data presented in Tables 1.02 & 1.03, what significant positive or negative trends did you notice which were not adequately addressed?

Offering new classes has definitely resulted in higher enrollments and fill rates. The current issue is that the classrooms available seem to be “maxed out”. This results in a “Catch 22” situation whereby the program can not offer more sections to meet demand without more rooms, and the number of available rooms on campus is an ongoing demand issue.

The validation team discussed this issue at length with Lynn McMurrey and Dora Krannig of the Dance Department. The report describes the possibility of two classrooms for possible remodel into one larger more usable space. These rooms are SN 101 and 102. One is a Level 3 classroom and the other is the old weight room. Once again the issues of college priorities and budgeting are major constraints for this plan. Apparently, these rooms are not booked around the clock and lecture classes such as the popular new Dance History could be held in this space.

103A Two majors are listed, but they are really the same (just spelled differently).

The report discusses new testing teams and having two FT faculty evaluate students at the end of every class offered. Although the department should be applauded for the effort they have done and their hopes for the future, it seems unrealistic to the validation team that the two existing full time faculty members can carry on this activity or increase the effort for the majority of class offerings.

3. The GCC SLO timeline requires that one SLO be written in one course per department and be assessed by the end of fall 2007.

a. Indicate the program's SLOAC progress with the timeline:

____ The program has not met the timeline.
____ The program has met the timeline.
_x *_ SLO progress exceeds the timeline.

* The Dance Department's SLO effort is exemplary and a great model for the college. All courses have written learning outcomes and many are currently linked to the core competencies of the college as identified in the Strategic Master Plan. Six courses have written and completed an assessment cycle and additionally used the data for planning improvement.

b. How have SLOs been addressed in the program's Five-Year Educational Master Plan? (Section 5.02)

Yes, the program is diligently implementing SLOs across their curriculum. Approximately 25% of the courses have completed an assessment cycle. The Five Year Plan addresses using the data for planning and course/curriculum improvement.

4. How is the program responding to the data presented in Table 3.01?

The student internship program is a positive addition to the program, particularly in the large "m-pulled" classes where their assistance with groups of students is invaluable to the instructor. Interns earn units (1 to 1.5 units) in the classrooms and paid student workers go out to offsite locations in the L.A. area (predominantly high schools) to recruit students.

5. Comment on the program's responses to Sections 4.01 & 4.02 and how the responses support the needs stated in Section 4.07.

A dilemma exists concerning increasing enrollment, added curriculum, group testing and SLO implementation. Growth leads to the need for more space and staff. The document explains the program's need for an additional full-time tenure track faculty member and the importance of full-time faculty as a "driving force" in the creativity and development of the program. The importance and need for increased part-time faculty is also explained. They provide the talent to support the requested specialized offerings (such as Hip Hop and Mediterranean Dancing) which offer strength to the program.

The spatial needs of the program include an additional restroom for male students and increasing available classroom area. Classroom space continues to be a major concern for growth campus wide. The Dance Department explained to the validation team that the Sierra Nevada Gym has can not be realistically expanded outward, but the original construction could be increased by building up. All options are dependent on significant financial resources.

6. Section 5.01 Did the program adequately reflect on their past plans, and any improvement that resulted from those plans?

The program addressed their previous goals and noted improvements in the areas of recruitment, program mini brochures including certificate information, increased evening offerings, update course offerings based on need and review of course outlines. The only plan that had difficulty was adding a performance class in the summer. Due to the teaching load of the full-time faculty a part-timer took on this project. Securing suitable campus support for the summer performance project proved very difficult. This frustrated both faculty and student efforts to produce an educational project that met departmental expectations.

7. Section 5.02 – Five Year Educational Plan:
   a. How valid is the plan given the data?
   b. Comment on the plan, especially with regard to resource needs.

The program has requested a full-time position, remodel of existing space, an additional restroom, more classroom space and more part-time instructors to meet the current growth trend. The validation team has a few questions that cannot be answered at this time:

- Will the growth trend continue and how much can the program continue to grow if no additional dance studio space is allotted to the dance department?
- Will the retirement of Lynn McMurrey have an impact on the growth of the program?
- Can the program sustain hiring another full-timer before Lynn McMurrey retires or without more usable space?
- How does Lynn McMurray's 60% release time as Staff Development Coordinator change the dynamics of hiring another faculty member?
- The timeline gets complicated when deciding which comes first: hiring more faculty or seeking out additional space?

- What if the growth of the program levels out?
- Can the department realistic continue to grow?
- If one faculty position is added in the next year or two, will another full-time position be justified when Lynn McMurrey retires in 2011-2012?
- The current staff member in charge of costume/wardrobe is being stretched between both the dance and PE departments. She is very experienced, yet stressed by the current workload. Won't growth and additional performances will intensify the stress of this situation. How can this situation be effectively resolved?

8. Summarize the committee's overall view of the document.

The department put a lot of time into the document. The program makes a valid explanation of current growth. The department's goals of adding teaching space and full-time faculty while maintaining the specialty skills of it part-time faculty are clear. The validation team feels that the achievement of these goals requires a coordinated commitment by the District. We believe increasing studio/lecture space followed by increased course offerings are the best first steps. If these actions result in the anticipated growth, then a new full-time hire appears fully justifiable. Additionally, the anticipated replacement hire for Mr. McMurrey would also seem appropriate if both facilities and the number of course offerings were enhanced. We recognize that the department's plans to increase lecture course offerings and perhaps introduce internet based course(s) will increase the number of courses offered whether or not new space is added. These actions have merit in and of themselves, but they may not produce a comprehensive justification for a new hire in the next two years.

9. Based on the document, please comment upon this program.

The Dance Department is commended for the dedication and hard work that has been put into SLOs and assessment. The campus is fortunate to benefit from quality performances through the year and recruitment has been effective from their efforts at the high schools.

Dance performances are labor intensive and dependent upon the support of auxiliary services such as wardrobe, stage needs, etc. Additionally, group testing is an invaluable benefit to students and supports SLO assessment. While faculty hours for performance activities are typically compensated by a stipend; the numerous hours spent on testing and the development of SLOs and assessment are done without pay. How long the current faculty can sustain these efforts and maintain a balance in their daily lives is unknown? It seems that continued growth will increase the amount of effort that faculty will need to spend to maintain the current quality of the program.

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I have reviewed this report _____ Date 2/25/08