

Undergraduate Program Review Findings and Recommendations

History

Spring 2009

Recommendation of the PRSC: Unconditional Continuation

Primary Strengths of the Program:

- Outstanding full-time faculty.
- Wide range of course offerings.
- Student Performance outcomes are at a high rate of achievement overall.
- Enrollment is beginning to increase as of Fall 2008: caps were reached prior to day one of classes.

External factors which may positively impact the program in the next five-year cycle:

- With the push in recruiting for Hispanic students to enter the high education arena, this puts the university and especially, the History Department at an advantage to increase their student population.
- Historically, when the economy takes a downturn, the trend tends to bring more individuals to college to attain an education, upgrade their skills, or start a new career. With vast numbers of individuals losing their jobs in the market place currently, the impact may be felt not only through various departments at TAMUK, but especially including the History Department with its teacher education program.

Weaknesses of the Program:

- No Teaching Assistants. Funding for Teaching Assistants has been requested, but no money has been allocated.
- Loss of faculty positions with a strong potential of losing more faculty within the next five-year cycle. Nothing has been set in place to replace these lost positions.
- Technology is in need up serious upgrading.

External factors which may negatively impact the program in the next five-year cycle:

- With the retirement of the baby boom generation (of which we have several faculty in the History Department that fit that category), loss of the able bodied and creative professors is a likely event very soon.

Incorporate the various strengths and weaknesses of the program to make recommendations for improvements and/or modifications in the program and its curriculum:

In order to maintain the following:

- Wide range of course offerings
- Capstone Senior pass rate at 100%,
- Student performance outcomes at a high rate of achievement overall
- Increased enrollment

Recommendations are to allow the History Department to fill the faculty vacancies when they arise with similar quality faculty the History Department currently has and update the technology into the 21st century. The History Department has done an admirable job of attending to issues that were outlined in the last review. Nearly all outstanding issues are the direct result of insufficient funding which is an endemic problem that will not be alleviated in the foreseeable future.