Program Review - Ethnic Studies

Prepared by: Juan Arzola

What are the strengths of your area?: As a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), College of the Sequoias serves a student body that is 58% Hispanic. Tulare County is 61.8% Hispanic. Couple the demographics data with the success rate of students--78% average student success rate covering 2010-2013--who take Ethnic Studies 3 (Mexican American Studies), Ethnic Studies 3 seems to be the standard bearer for the Ethnic Studies department.

What improvements are needed?: Based on the student success data--55% average student success rate covering 2010-2013--for Ethnic Studies 1 (Black American Studies), significant concerns arise regarding the quality of instruction for this course. However, 2013 student success data reflects an improvement to 65%. We may be wise to collect data for a couple more years in order to determine if this is a trend or an anomaly.

Describe any external opportunities or challenges.: A significant challenge to the Ethnic Studies department is the lack of advocacy. The program currently operates with two adjunct faculty teaching 3 of the 4 course offerings in the fall semester, and 4 adjuncts teaching 5 of the course offerings in the spring semester. There is 1 full-timer that teaches one course per semester. The lack of a full-timer Ethnic Studies professor will continue to hamper the department, if there is no advocate for resources that may be needed to enhance and support instruction.

Overall Outcome Achievement: We are please with the success of Ethnic Studies 3; however, we will monitor Ethnic Studies 1, as those data seem to suggest a possible upward swing in student success.

Changes based on outcome achievement: With respect to Ethnic Studies 3, we see no need to modify the outcomes listed for the course. Regarding Ethnic Studies 1, based on the most recent student success data, we believe it may require another batch of data to determine if an upward trend has been established. If it is determined to be an anomaly, then it may require responsible parties to review and modify the outcome statement and/or revise the assessment methods and tools.

Outcome cycle evaluation: At this point, the unit has meet its evaluation cycle. Hence, no changes are needed.

Action: Improve ETHN 1 Student Success

We would like to reassess student success for Ethnic Studies 1, as it is determined to be unacceptably low. We hope to see an improvement on 2013 data.

Start Date: 08/18/2014
Status: New Action

Person(s) Responsible (Name and Position): Juan Arzola/ Full Time Faculty Member

Rationale (With supporting data): Student success rates are key to informing the public about the quality of education a student receives at an institution of higher learning. The average student success rate, taken over 3 years, reflects students in Ethnic Studies 1 may not be receiving adequate instruction. However, 2013 data reflects a noticeable improvement in student success. We would like to collect another round of data to determine if last year’s data is the beginning of an upward trend or an anomaly.

Priority: High
Safety Issue: No
External Mandate: No

Add Resource Request for Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Description</th>
<th>Why is this resource required for this action?</th>
<th>Notes (optional)</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Studies Professor</td>
<td>While no new faculty is needed to conduct the collection of data, we believe that the continued absence of a full-time Ethnic Studies faculty/advocate will continue to represent an obstacle to the resources the department may need.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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