

Dean's Summary  
Comprehensive Program Review  
April 13, 2018

I will somewhat break with tradition of the past two years in emphasizing themes across Social Sciences and Humanities' three Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and nine disciplines. I wish to highlight *positive* trends that caught my attention as I read our APRUs. It seemed to me that even in the face of severe enrollment challenges and its aftermath of impending budget reductions, there is still hopeful outlook for student achievement through new possibilities in programs and course offerings.

Administration of Justice awarded 35 AD-Ts and 21 AA and/or AS degrees. It is reported that the program is "looking to enhance the curriculum content with an ethics/critical thinking course and an additional AA degree in Homeland Security; a Certificate of Achievement-Advanced in Cyber Forensics and Investigation is in the final approval process. The ethics/critical thinking course is in progress. The AOJ program is partnered with a state-wide consortium of colleges developing a K-12 PhD Homeland Security Curriculum; our program is at the community college level. The AA in Homeland Security will offer a career path to those students who desire a career outside traditional policing... Research has shown that no community college or CSU in the Bay Area has a criminal investigation lab..." but with Perkins and Strong Workforce grant funding, AOJ is developing one.

In Child Development and Education, another CTE program, 54 Certificates of Achievement, 6 Achievement-Advanced, 22 AD-Ts, and 19 AA and/or AS degrees were awarded. De Anza's CDE is the first, and perhaps, only such program among 114 community colleges in the state with NAEYC-AA degree accreditation. Our Self-Study is due in one more year for seven additional years accreditation. The department is working very hard to get it done.

Paralegal Studies has a robust and active Advisory Board. For the past two Board meetings, Paralegal has accepted the invitation to meet at the Law Offices of Morrison and Foerster, one of the large Silicon Valley firms in Palo Alto with Morrison and Foerster hosting lunch. "In its most recent meetings, the board has discussed enlarging the reach of the program to begin offering courses for continuing legal education for practicing paralegals and to begin community service by establishing a legal clinic to provide services to low income and homeless persons. This would help improve the public visibility of the program and show potential students the types of services paralegals can render. Additionally, a board sub-committee was formed to revise and update the paralegal website... The Board also discussed the possibility of placing our beginning classes online or in hybrid delivery to boost enrollment. The Board feels that advanced practical classes will be problematic in an online version, but our beginning classes could be delivered in this mode..."

The Economics department began offering Environmental Economics (ECON 3) and Economics of Public Issue (ECON 4) in fall 2016. “In fall 2017 Behavioral Economics (ECON 5), the response from students was high, so going forward we may offer it twice in the 2018-19 academic year. All three courses are part of the AA-T degree in Economics.”

Geography reports strong participation in the division’s equity initiative, Conversation-Application-Reflection (C.A.R.). “We continued our work with the Social Scientists Spotlight (following former biology instructor, Jeff Schinke’s ‘Scientist Spotlight’ project), where we had our students read about and reflect on contributions of Geographers of diverse ethnic origins.”

The Humanities department “recently received a grant from the Mellon Foundation to encourage success and scholarship in the Humanities among target student populations. The Humanities Mellon Scholar program is currently a huge benefit to the district and to our students.” The Humanities APRU goes on to state, “It is also, however, contributing to an uncompensated increased workload for Humanities faculty.”

A new Psychology course offering, The Psychology of Wellness, began fall 2017 with 43 students out of a 50-student seat count. Given usual first course enrollments, especially during this period of declining enrollment, Psychology of Wellness’ robust first-time enrollment was a welcomed surprise, and promises to grow as a popular psychology course, though it declined in enrollment this winter and spring 2018.

Each department and CTE programs’ APRU reflects varying degrees of optimism and possibilities laced with hard realities of early class cancellations, underfunded print budgets for print intensive disciplines, pressure to justify existence of programs, etc.

Nonetheless, Social Sciences and Humanities remains committed to what makes De Anza a viable college: student success and student equity.

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