

2007 MASTER PLAN/PROGRESS REPORT

Educational Support Unit: Department of Social Sciences

Person Responsible: Billy Turner

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Mission: The purposes of the Department of Social Sciences are:

- To offer every student an opportunity to broaden their knowledge and increase their understanding of the past and present of humankind's governmental and social endeavor, including studies in anthropology, geography, philosophy.
- To provide students with a solid liberal arts course of study leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government or Sociology, or a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Criminal Justice.
- To provide specialized study leading to an Associate of Arts degree in Paralegal Studies.
- To offer minors in Criminal Justice, Government, and Sociology, and substantial course offerings in Anthropology, Geography, and Philosophy.
- To serve the University, the larger academic community, and the Southwest Louisiana area through quality teaching, research and publication, and University and community service.

Institutional Mission Reference:

- To provide excellent instruction and advising to all Social Science majors and other students accompanied by academic excellence with a personal touch both in and without the classroom setting.
- Emphasize excellence in instruction. Annual Performance Reviews include SEI's to monitor student assessment of faculty classroom performance (AE1, EPO2, and EPO3).
- The Department currently has no degree programs that have national accreditation status. However, all Departmental faculty continue to input to keep each discipline contemporary with Social Science degree programs nation wide (AE4, EPO2).
- Foster a climate that enhances student learning, focuses on retention, values advising, and enriches the quality of campus life. All departmental faculty are strongly encouraged to support student learning and high academic standards while maintaining "a personal touch" with students. Students and their advisors know each other and meet frequently in the classroom and advising office (EPO2)
- Utilize technology to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of campus operations. The department continues to write grant proposals to attain technological innovation and replacement of older equipment or attainment of new equipment. (EPO4).
- Support mutually beneficial university/community collaboration. The department and relevant faculty continue to work closely with university and community organizations to include advising, consulting, grant proposal writing assistance and more. (UCA1).

Assessment Methods Utilized:

- Student Opinion Survey (SOS)
- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
- Internally-developed Survey
- Faculty Roster
- Annual Performance Review (APR)
- Community Involvement

Data Repository Location:

Kaufman #175

- X Exit Survey/Interview/Exam
- X Grant Activity
- X Number of Publications
- ___ Participation in MSU Committees/Organizations
- ___ Participation in Professional Committees/Organizations
- X Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI)
- ___ Unit Audit
- ___ Data collection via Excel spreadsheet
- ___ Data collection via Access database
- ___ Other - Please describe: _____

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Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 1: Engage in collaborative ventures and campus and community activities which enhance economic development and cultural growth.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 percent of Departmental faculty will engage in University/Community Service. • 10 percent of Departmental faculty will engage in collaborative research/publication efforts. • The Department of Social Sciences coordinates Internships (SOSC 370, 371 and 372) with area organizations and agencies in the private sector, government, criminal justice system and social services departments to provide community service, help place students in suitable employment positions, and provide mutual training for students and sponsors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the Academic year 2006-2007, all Departmental faculty engaged in University/Community service. This data is cited on the APR individual forms for each faculty. • For the Academic year 2006-2007, four (4) Departmental faculty collaborated on research efforts and co-authored manuscripts in referred sources of publication. • The Coordinator of Criminal Justice monitors and reports Internship developments to the Department Head. Interns must submit proper documentation of Internship completion to the Coordinator of Criminal Justice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage faculty to continue their high rate of University/Community Service. • Encourage faculty to continue their collaborative efforts. • Continue to monitor Internships and develop new potentials.

Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 2: Demonstrate excellence in teaching in order to enhance student recruitment, retention, and graduation.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80 percent of Departmental faculty will exceed the University SEI norm figure.• 90 percent of Departmental full-time faculty will possess or be completing the terminal degree in their teaching discipline.• 100 percent of faculty will complete APR materials for annual review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the Academic year 2006-2007, 90 percent of Departmental faculty exceeded the SEI norm figure for the University. Printouts from MSU office of IE are part of the APR format.• All departmental full-time faculty currently possess the terminal degree in their teaching discipline.• 100 percent of Departmental faculty completed packets for APR purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue Departmental excellence in teaching.• Continue to recruit highly credentialed faculty or support completion of the terminal degree by newly hired Departmental faculty who are nearing terminal degree status.• A Departmental APR Committee stands with representatives from each Departmental discipline to recommend nominal credit point awards for each area of APR evaluation. This process will be continued for fundamental fairness to all.

Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 3: Demonstrate commitment to research and creative and scholarly activity.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 percent of Departmental faculty will engage in research and publication efforts.• 60 percent of Departmental faculty will be active in professional organizations and related scholarly meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently, 40 percent of departmental faculty published or engaged in ongoing research toward publication for the academic year 2006-2007.• Currently, 70 percent of Departmental faculty attended professional meetings and 50 percent presented scholarly papers/presentations at these meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to support research and publication efforts by Departmental faculty.• Continue to support scholarly participation in professional organizations and meetings.

Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 4: Utilize resources efficiently and effectively to support the university mission.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribute limited travel funds in a fair manner to all Departmental faculty.• To achieve TASC and Gaming grants for technological innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The allocated travel budget is distributed evenly to the total number of Departmental faculty. The Department Head distributes his own travel money to needy Departmental faculty.• The Departments achieved both TASC and Gaming grants for the academic year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue pressing for an increase in Departmental funds allocated for travel.• Continue collaborative efforts to write successful grant proposals.

Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 5: To achieve new full-time Philosophy and Geography faculty positions

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To achieve new full-time faculty positions in Philosophy and Geography.• 50 percent of Departmental faculty will offer GENED courses in the Department.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is being discussed with higher administration.• 60 percent of Departmental faculty have already turned in GENED course outlines for review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to achieve these new positions.• Continue this strong showing of BOR Goal attainment.

Resources Allocated:

- Travel funds are limited by a restrictive budget. All Departmental faculty are allocated identical funding from the Departmental travel budget.
 - Government and Geography has self-generating sources of travel funding which is allocated as needed to these faculty.
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