

Program Faculty Response to Site Visit Report
Department of Foreign Languages
Weber State University
April 20, 2015

Commendations

We are pleased that the Program Review Team commended the Department of Foreign Languages for the following: 1) a clear Mission Statement, 2) a well-designed curriculum, 3) clearly-articulated student learning outcomes, 4) excellent advising, 5) a committed and well-qualified faculty, 6) an excellent support staff, and 7) good relationships with external communities.

Recommendations

1. *Consider expanding opportunities for students to take cross-listed courses.*
 - a. **Program Response: Agree.** While we hesitate to add several cross-listed courses (taught in English), because they do not support our first Student Learning Outcome (speaking and listening proficiency), we do agree that adding one or two cross-listed courses should not be a great hindrance to students' proficiency development and that these courses will give students a greater variety of courses from which to choose, thereby allowing them to expedite their progress toward graduation.
 - b. **Action Plan:** Dr. Tom Mathews suggested that we develop and teach a linguistics course taught in English and directed to French, German, and Spanish majors. The rest of the department agreed; therefore, this course will be developed and taught in the near future.
2. *Consider offering hybrid lower-division courses in languages other than Spanish.*
 - a. **Program Response: Agree.** We agree that offering hybrid lower-division courses in languages other than Spanish may help boost enrollments in those languages.
 - b. **Action Plan:** We will develop guidelines for hybrid foreign language courses, and then we will allow any instructor who has completed either the MOTC program or the Blended Learning workshop to submit a proposal and syllabus for a hybrid course to the Department Curriculum Committee, who will then determine if the proposed course meets the guidelines and should therefore be approved.
3. *Consider offering Institutional Certificates in French and German.*
 - a. **Program Response: Agree.** We agree that offering Institutional Certificates in French and German may increase the enrollments of these programs.
 - b. **Action Plan:** The Institutional Certificate in Spanish will be available July 1, 2015. Once that program has existed for at least one year, we will assess its effectiveness and then use the knowledge gained through that assessment to determine whether or not to propose Institutional Certificates in French and German.

4. *Increase faculty investment in learning outcomes.*
 - a. **Program Response: Agree.** We agree that there is a need to make the Department of Foreign Languages Faculty more aware of the department's Student Learning Outcomes.
 - b. **Action Plan:** Before the beginning of the fall 2015 semester, we will print and distribute—to all faculty—cards that include the Department of Foreign Languages Mission Statement and Student Learning Outcomes. Beginning fall semester, we will also require all department faculty to include on each course syllabus the department's Student Learning Outcomes as well as an indication of which outcomes will be addressed in that course. Each semester the Department Chair will review course syllabi to ensure that the Department Student Learning Outcomes are included.

5. *Consider re-conceptualizing student portfolios as a learning tool.*
 - a. **Program Response: Agree.** We agree that the student portfolios that are now part of our Senior Assessment course could be used more effectively.
 - b. **Action Plan:** The Department Assessment Committee will draft a new policy regarding the ongoing use of student portfolios throughout a student's academic career. That policy will then be considered for approval by the department.

6. *Strategically plan for maintenance and growth of language programs.*
 - a. **Program Response: Agree.** We will continue our ongoing efforts to build our programs.
 - b. **Action Plan:**
 - i. Dr. Yumi Adachi will write a proposal for the addition of a major in Japanese
 - ii. We have begun discussions with the Goddard School of Business to establish dual degrees in business and foreign languages.
 - iii. The addition of lower-division hybrid courses and a general linguistics course should help build enrollments in several of our programs, especially French and German.

7. *Study the effects of having changed lower-division courses from 4 to 3 credits.*
 - a. **Program Response: Agree.** While most of the department faculty feels that changing lower-division courses from 4 to 3 credit hours has not had a negative effect on students' development of language proficiency, we will study the effects of this change.
 - b. **Action Plan:**
 - i. During the fall 2015 semester, we will conduct a survey among department faculty to assess their perception of the effects of this change.
 - ii. Also during the fall 2015 semester, Dr. Tom Mathews will submit a proposal for RSPG funds to conduct a comparative study of the proficiency levels attained by students who have recently completed Spanish 2020 at SLCC, UVU, and WSU. Dr. Mathews will then share the results of his study with the department.

8. *Improve the department website.*
 - a. **Program Response: Agree.** We agree that the department website needs to be improved.
 - b. **Action Plan:** This semester Dr. Cheryl Hansen is working with Christine Denniston, Director of Marketing and PR for the College of Arts and Humanities, to improve the website and make it more consistent with the websites of the rest of the college.

Department Plans

The following are some of the goals of the Department of Foreign Languages:

- Articulate learning outcomes for individual courses, beginning with 3060 and 3160.
- Improve the assessment of HU2020.
- Initiate and advertise new associate degrees.
- Gather data regarding next-step success.
- Establish interdisciplinary and collaborative projects with other departments and colleges.
- Increase offerings of community-engaged and cultural activities.
- Increase number and dollar amount of scholarships for study abroad.
- Provide ASL students with digital lab materials.
- Establish a major in ASL Interpreting.
- Establish a minor in Chinese.