Assessment Plan

Yuba Community College District

YC - Communication Studies & Speech Program Recommendations

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Program Description: The speech department district-wide offers nine courses, all of which are transfer-level courses and fulfill various CSU/UC general education requirements. Nearly all of the courses offered in the speech department are also required either for graduation purposes at Yuba College or to satisfy the general education requirements of a particular major, certificate, or vocational program.

Speech 1, 3, 6, or 7 is required for all students to satisfy the Oral Communication General Education requirement for transfer or graduation purposes from Yuba College. These classes are also required of particular majors and programs such as nursing, social services, and liberal studies. Speech 3 and 8 satisfy other requirements such as critical thinking and multicultural requirement needed for transfer. Speech 2 is a required course for all liberal studies majors.

Speech 4R,or the Speech Arts Workshop, has offered an extensive inter-collegiate forensics program which has gained Yuba College notoriety over the years through regional, state, and national award-winning programs. The team has been without a budget since 09, and has relied on fundraising to compete on a limited basis. Despite this, the team has managed to earn the distinction of having the best overall speaker at a tournament three times since the last review and has qualified for state and nationals nearly every year.

Speech 4R has also added a fund-raising event called "Speech Night" to its program and showcases the team's novice through advanced students performing Oral Interpretations of Literature each semester. This has helped with fund-raising and has entertained the community since its inception two years ago. It has also provided exposure to the Speech Program and has attracted new students to the program each semester.

The Speech Team Program continues to look forward to having its budget reinstated as soon as possible in the future.

Speech 12, Mulitcultural Communication, offers up to 1 unit for attending guest lectures related to diversity issues sponsored by the Crossing Borders and Building Bridges program. This program continues to expose our students and community to social issues and brings prestige and notariety to our program, college, and community.

The Marysville campus offers an Associate of Arts in Communication studies. 21 units are required for this major (degree). All courses offered support the Associate of Science degree, including Speech 4R, Speech Arts Workshop (Speech Team).

The Lake campus and the Beale site offer courses in speech 1, 3, 7, and 6. These courses meet the requirements for the above programs.

Year of Review: 2011-2012

Type of Review: Self-Study (4-year review)

Executive Summary: Recent updates to the program include the addition of a fund-raising event (Speech Night) to Speech 4R to allow students to practice their public speaking skills in preparation for participation in local, state, and national speech championships. Speech Night has successfully raised funds to send a few of the most promising students to speech tournaments, but even these funds require budget augmentation from the Vice President's office and from private donations to the College Foundation in order to sponsor the students' participation. This spring, our Speech students brought home top awards despite competing against teams from larger, more prominent schools with much bigger budgets for coaching and travel. Reinstatement of funds for travel and competition would provide valuable learning experiences for more Speech students and give them a sense of pride in their education and in their school. In an effort to raise more donor funds for the Speech Team, the one full-time faculty member of the department has sent mass mailings to community organizations and businesses known to be sympathetic to education. The department is hoping to forge productive relationships with these orgnizations to secure ongoing financial support for the Speech Program.

SLOs and assessment methods have been developed for all active courses taught in the Speech Department, but assessment data need to be collected and reported beginning in spring 2012. Recommendations for

modifications to the Speech curriculum also need to be made, based on assessment results.

Major program recommendations include hiring a full-time replacement Speech instructor for the Marysville campus, restoring the number of sections previously taught to meet the students' educationa needs, beginning to assess SLOs and making appropriate program recommendations based on assessment results, reinstating the Speech Team budget to allow students to compete in more regional and national chanpionships, and continuing to expand fundraising efforts for the Speech Team.

Future Goals and Program Direction: Future goals for the Speech Program include:

1. Hiring a full-time replacement Speech Instructor for the Marysville Campus

2. Increase sections offered in Fall, Spring, and Summer to accomodate the growing student need for speech courses and to reinstate cut sections due to economic reasons.

3. Continue to assess and review SLO's for the entire speech curriculum.

4. Meet with part-time faculty to review curriculum needs and changes based on Student Learning Outcomes and needs.

5. Reinstate the speech team budget to allow students to compete at all regional tourmaments.

6. Continue to fund-raise for the forensics program .

Marysville, Lake and Beale campuses are all anticipating growth in the coming years as enrollment continues to rise at community colleges in general. The demand for courses has been increasing each year while state budget cuts have resulted in many sections being eliminated in the overall speech program. This has resulted in classes that are filled to capacity with long wait-lists for most courses. The speech program looks forward to re-instating cut sections, along with summer school offerings, when the budget allows.

Two of our full-time speech instructors at Yuba College have retired since our last review. Jim Prager retired in 09 and Neelam Canto-Lugo retired in '10. They taught a combined total of 8 sections each semester. The speech program initially struggled to staff speech sections, and has since hired three part-timers to cover courses at the Beale and Marysville campuses.

The speech department requested and the Board approved a full-time speech replacement position for the fall of '11. Due to the current economic crisis, the position was rescinded until a later date. This has left the department with one full-time professor, Suzanne Ruckle. In addition to teaching full-time, this has left only one full-time instructor to do the administrative duties for an entire program which include interviewing, hiring, evaluating, staffing and scheduling, and reviewing programs. We are in need of a full-time replacement to ensure we can cover staffing needs as well as add to the collegiality and creative teamwork which is essential in a program. The department did fill out paperwork in the fall of 11 for a new full-time replacement. Other full-time replacement positions ranked higher on the administration's list for next academic year. We hope to have the position approved in the near future.

Recommendation: Hire Full-time Speech instructor

To ensure staffing of speech courses, we recommend hiring a full-time speech professor to replace 2 retired full-time speech faculty members.

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012

Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority

Supporting Evidence: Neelam Canto-Lugo , a full-time professor of Speech Communication retired 5/2010 and has not been replaced. Jim Prager, full-time speech/Reading instructor retired and has not been replaced. There is currently only one full -time Speech Instructor at Yuba College. It is often difficult to staff speech courses with adjunct faculty due to location and availability of speech instructors.

The Board approved a full-time replacement position in Speech beginning fall of '11. This position was rescinded due to budget cuts. The department submitted another request to the staffing commmittee for a full-time replacement fall of '11. The position has not been replaced to date.

Plans of Action

Plan of Action	Budgetary Impact	Timeline/Responsible Party	Active

Plans of Action			
Plan of Action	**Budgetary Impact**	**Timeline/Responsible Party**	**Active**
Forward request to faculty staffing committee. Request has been forwarded to the staffing committee fall of 2011. **Type:** Staffing - Faculty	The cost of one full-time faculty member		Yes

Recommendation: Increase sections in the Speech Curriculum

We recommend adding sections of the Speech Curriculum to accomodate students who need a speech course for graduation or transfer purposes.

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012
Request Date: 05/20/2012
Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority
Supporting Evidence: The Speech department at Marysville typically offered 15 sections each fall and spring semester, and up to four sections during summer session. The department has been cut to 13 sections (and one semester it was down to 12) which drastically impacted student availablity for courses and caused classes to reach maximum capacity. In many cases, classes were overloaded due to instructors allowing extra students due to emergency situations such as needing the one class to graduate. Summer school has been cut down to one section which has also impacted availablity for students to meet the speech requirement at Marysville.

Plans of Action			
Plan of Action	**Budgetary Impact**	**Timeline/Responsible Party**	**Active**
Communicate with Dean regarding enrollment and student needs for courses. **Type:** Curriculum/SLO			Yes

Recommendation: Reinstating the speech team budget

We recommend reinstating the speech team budget to allow students to compete on a regional basis and to strengthen our award-winning forensics program.

Request Date: 08/17/2012
Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority
Supporting Evidence: The Yuba College Speech team had a budget of $10,000.00 an academic year by the 08/09 school year. Even though this budget does not allow the team to compete at all local speech tournaments like other schools in our region, it did allow us to pick and choose at least 2 tournaments a semester. The budget has been eliminated since fall of 09 which has left the team only able to compete on a minimal basic. We have done fund raising every semester to compete at one regional tournament and have organized intra-mural tournaments with our neighboring schools in order to stay competitive. In order to qualify for state and nationals, we need to compete in 3 regional tournaments a semester which we cannot currently do, due to budget constraints.

Plans of Action			
Plan of Action	**Budgetary Impact**	**Timeline/Responsible Party**	**Active**
The Speech Department will continue to request reinstating the speech team budget in every annual review as we have done in the past. We also plan to continue to fund-raise and put on a "Speech Night" show in our theater each semester to raise funds for competition. This fall of 2012, the speech coach has created a marketing campaign to target leaders in the community for possible sponsorship of one or more students to attend a tournament. This program has succeeded in raising funds for the team to attend one tournament so far this semester. We hope to have sponsorships for more tournaments as funds come in.	The Speech Budget was $10,000.00 an academic year. The average cost of one speech tournament is about $2,000.00 which includes tournament fees, hotel, hired judging fees, and food.	The speech coach and team are responsible for fund-raising. The administration is responsible for allocating the speech team budget.	Yes