Program Review Report

Yuba Community College District

YC - Agriculture Program Recommendations

Program Description: Agriculture is the largest industry in the Yuba Community College District. High schools have the largest number of agriculture students that they have ever had. Technological changes in agriculture are happening rapidly and instruction is needed in these areas. There is an opportunity to expand specific training for the community.

The Yuba College District Agriculture Program includes Plant Science courses at the Marysville Campus and Agriculture, Animal Science, and Plant Science classes offered online. The program currently offers one class on campus and ten online courses each semester. At this time, courses are only offered at the Marysville Campus and online. The complete list of courses offered is listed below.

The program also offers continuing education training for the pesticide industry online. A workshop is held on campus each year in coordination with PAPA (Pesticide Applicator?s Professional Association). The Principles of Plant Science, Introduction to Soils, and Principles of Animal Science meet General Education science requirements.

Year of Review: 2012-2013

Type of Review: Annual Update

Executive Summary: Data Elements

The total weekly student contact hours for the program have stayed approximately the same over the past five years. But, the average WSCH per full-time equivalent faculty has currently dropped from the 2010-2011 of 1440 to the 2011-2012 year of 885.0. It was approximately 300 in 2002 ? 2003, but has averaged approximately 1300 over the past four years. Much of this can be attributed to the success of the online courses.

The retention rate for the all courses has ranged from 65 to 79% with the average for the five years being 73%. The retention rate for online courses has ranged from 61 to 76% with the average for the five years being 69%. This goes against the conventional wisdom that online courses have a much lower retention rate than regular classroom courses. The data overall indicates that the weekly student contact hours per full-time equivalent faculty has increased and that the retention rate has stayed in an acceptable range. FTES is currently 5416.76.

Goals of the Program

The agriculture program provides training to meet a number of needs: transfer, vocational training, employment skills updating, and for licensing requirements. A number of the courses offered transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The courses, which meet general education requirements, are especially popular.

The majority of student growth in the program has come from the courses being offered online each semester. This has expanded the service area served and allowed courses to be available throughout the college district and beyond. A sizeable number of students come in for retraining or skills updating. The Pesticide Fee Program provides training hours for community individuals to meet the continuing education requirements for their licenses.

The program goals are generally equal in importance and most classes fulfill more than one need.

Future Goals and Program Direction: Program Analysis

Curriculum and Program Direction

Strengths

o Course outlines are all current having been updated this semester.
o The General Education and online courses are extremely popular.
o The online courses have expanded the geographic area served.

Areas for Improvement/Future Direction

o The program needs to develop closer ties with the Welding, Business, and Veterinary Technology program. The Welding program has expanded greatly and is closely tied to the agriculture industry and local high schools. The Welding Camp is being expanded to include a Floriculture Camp this spring. There is an opportunity to work together with Welding to develop grant proposals to improve the programs. The Veterinary Technology attracts agriculture students. The opportunity to work together in recruiting students could benefit both programs. The agriculture business courses are taught online and to a variety of individuals many not in agriculture. The development with the business department of an Agriculture Business Certificate with courses in agriculture and business could be very popular.
o The current certificates need to be reviewed and revised.
o The program need to update with the Department of Pesticide Regulations the course list currently approved for individuals looking to become Pest Control Advisors.
o The program needs to develop a two-year plan for instruction.
o The possibility of offering plant science courses at the Lake and Sutter Campuses should be explored.
o The offering of Environmental Horticulture classes at Yuba College should be explored.
o As a Sutter site is developed in Yuba City, consideration should be given to offering agriculture classes at that site.
o The agriculture and related programs would benefit from a coordinated website.
o The program needs an active advisory committee.

Staffing

Strengths

o Areas for Improvement/Future Direction
o Adjunct faculty need to be identified to expand the program.
o More stable adjunct faculty in diverse agricultural fields need to be identified

Equipment

Strengths

o Online courses have very little need for equipment
o The plant science program works with the biology laboratory assistant in setting up laboratories and borrowing needed equipment.

Areas for Improvement/Future Direction

o There is an ongoing need to update current equipment.
o There is a need for integrating new technologies into the program: biotechnology equipment, GPS and other precision agriculture equipment, new pesticide equipment, as well as soil and plant tissue testing equipment.
o If Animal Science courses are offered on campus, equipment is needed to support this.

Facilities
Strengths
o The plant science program shares a classroom with earth science.
o The instructor has a storage area to keep supplies and equipment, as well as grow plants, until the time they are needed. This keeps the shared classroom from becoming cluttered.

Areas for Improvement/Future Direction
o If course offering are increased, additional classroom space may be needed.
o Yuba College 'farm' activities need to be expanded in animal and crop science.
0 Campus facilities need to be provided for expansion of the Ag/Plant Science program.

DE requests: Improve the budget to allow an overall District wide increase in online course offerings. Additionally improve the staffing budget to allow improved DE course flow. Year(s) Requested: 2012-2015.

YC - Media Services Program requests- Outfit building 1100 during measure J remodel - Install equipment for ITV classroom. Ensure Mass Comm classrooms and labs are properly configured. Setup meeting rooms to allow tutoring activities. Year(s) Requested: 2012-2013

Curriculum & SLO Assessment Summary : Student Learning Outcomes
The following student learning outcomes have been identified.
Critical Thinking: analyze data/information in addressing and evaluating problems and issues in making decisions.

Scientific Awareness: understand the purpose of scientific inquiry and the implications and applications of basic scientific principles.

The specific details and the assessment for the SLOs needs to be developed.

Yuba College Agriculture Courses

Plant Science
Principles of Plant Science PL SC 20*/20L 3/4
Fertilizers and Plant Nutrition PL SC 21* 3
Introduction to Soils PL SC 22*/22L 3/4
Introduction to Pest Management PL SC 30* 3
Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture PL SC 31* 3
Pesticide Applicators Certification PL SC 52 1
Sensory Wine Evaluation PL SC 60 1

Agricultural Business
Agricultural Accounting AG 11* 3
Computers in Agriculture AG 12* 3
Marketing AG 13* 3

Entrepreneurship AG 14* 3

Animal Science
Horse Production AG 44 3
Principles of Animal Science AG 45 3

Agriculture Internship AG 32 1-4v

Recommendations	Plans of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
YC - Agriculture Program Recommendations - .. - .. **Year(s) Requested:** 2012-2013			