



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**Stanislaus**

November 24, 2019

To: Dr. Cathlin Davis, Department Chair  
Dr. Katie Olivant, Former Department Chair

From: Kimberly Greer, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Liberal Studies Academic Program Review

Thank you for joining me to discuss the Academic Program Review for the Liberal Studies program. It was a pleasure to read your well-written and comprehensive self-study and to talk with you about the past and future of your B.A. program. I also appreciate your review of, and revisions to, the program's seven-year implementation plan.

I commend you and your department colleagues for your strong commitment to student learning and success. That commitment is clearly demonstrated by the dedication to successfully attaining reauthorization from the CCTC as an approved Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Program, and curriculum changes – including the Integrated B.A and credential option -- you have made in the past few years to be responsive to the needs of students as well as the state's teacher shortage. It is further evident in your students' involvement in valuable fieldwork activities, innovative and student-centered strategies to address advising challenges, maintenance of graduation rates despite rapid enrollment growth and a complex set of program requirements, and ongoing productive collaborations with your community college partners, University faculty colleagues who support your subject matter and concentration curricular requirements, and the credential programs. I was also impressed by the faculty's engagement with program-level direct assessment to continuously improve your program.

During our APR meeting, I was interested to learn about your vision to enhance your emphasis on holistic student development, reflected in activities focusing on work/life balance, exercise and growth mindset. I am pleased that we have been able to add tenure track lines in the past few years, and I appreciate you sharing your request for an additional tenure-track line to maintain program quality both in Turlock and in Stockton. My notes also indicate your continued challenges regarding advising, which hopefully will be partially alleviated by the addition of an SSP position in the College. Finally, it was helpful for me to learn more about your need for additional staff and an increase in operating budget to support your rapid enrollment growth and provide coverage in your busy office throughout the day. Those are issues your dean and I will work with you to address.

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The result of this Academic Program Review is that your program is approved for continuance with unqualified support. I encourage you to continue to assess program and learning outcomes in ways that will help make meaningful improvements for students, and am particularly appreciative of your thoughtful approach to ensuring your students are gaining the knowledge and competencies to become effective teachers.

Again, I extend my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you and discuss your self-study and implementation plan. I look forward to working with you in the future and supporting your vision for Liberal Studies at Stan State.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Greer, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- C. Oddmund Myhre, Dean of the College of Education, Kinesiology and Social Work
- Katie Olivant, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Erin Littlepage, Student Success and Community Partnerships Specialist