



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: John Petraitis, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Cc: Clare Dannenberg, Associate Professor; Chair, Department of Anthropology
Ryan Harrod, Associate Professor

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

Program/s in this review: Anthropology BA & BS

Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable): None

Campuses where the program is delivered: Anchorage

Members of the program review committee:

Clare Dannenberg, Associate Professor and Department Chair
Ryan Harrod, Associate Professor

Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role

UAA's mission is to discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement and creative expression. UAA is committed to serving the higher education needs of the state, its communities and its diverse peoples. It is also committed to instruction at multiple academic levels, success of all students regardless of their higher education goals, and service to the diverse peoples and communities of the state. UAA's core themes are (1) Teaching and Learning, (2) Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, (3) Student Success, (4) UAA Community, and (5) Public Square. UAA values international and intercultural education, diversity of experiences and perspectives, and the diversity of our unique location in Southcentral Alaska that comes from the Alaska Native peoples of this area.

The College of Arts and Sciences contributes to UAA's mission with a suite of programs that provide, among other things,

1. general education courses for undergraduates in CAS and other Colleges,
2. opportunities for undergraduates to pursue majors in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts, and

3. opportunities for faculty and students to pursue research and creative activities in CAS's academic disciplines,
4. graduate programs for advanced studies.

Given decreased enrollments across UAA and significant budget cuts to CAS, the challenge is to serve UAA's and CAS's missions with only 75% of the funds it had in 2018-2019. CAS's shrinking budget is especially challenging for programs that rely on state financial appropriations through CAS because the programs have a gap between (a) the total costs of everything the program does and needs, and (b) the tuition CAS receives to cover those costs. This describes most programs in CAS: most rely on state appropriates and CAS has 30% less than it had two years ago.

CAS's Department of Anthropology BA and BS contributes to CAS's and UAA's mission by its disciplinary content that easily ties to the history and culture of Alaska generally and Southcentral Alaska in particular, and with faculty whose research focuses on regional issues.

Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity

The number of majors and awards in this program has held relatively steady while college-wide other majors and awards decreased. Although student credits hours have dropped, the program went through curriculum redesign and streamlining so that it is sustainable with the number of students it serves. The program is in the bottom 25% of CAS undergraduate programs in attracting new first-year students, but it ends up at the CAS median (50th percentile) for the number of degrees awarded. One negative trend is the 24% decrease in class size for the Department's 100- and 200-level classes.

Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success

Program faculty proactively revised the curriculum in ways that allows it to serve more students without more faculty or expenses. Many of the courses are now available online, and the faculty have trained in high-quality online delivery.

Program Duplication / Distinctiveness

Although there are differences with UAF's BA/BS in Anthropology, there are overlaps, as well. UAA's program, however, produced about 75% of the Anthropology BA/BS degrees in the UA system in recent years.

Commendations and Recommendations

The program is commended for its resilience and foresight, and adjusting in recent years in ways that allowed it to keep ahead of reduced numbers of students. That good work should continue if UAA's budget continues to decrease. The faculty should also be commended for the hard work they put into their expedited program review submission.

Decision

Continuation. If the Board of Regents approves the deletion of another department that teaches Tier 2 General Education courses in the Social Sciences, and approves the continuation of the Anthropology BA/BS, then Anthropology faculty must be willing to increase the class sizes on the Department's 100- and 200-level general education courses because students will have fewer options and more will need seats in Anthropology courses.