



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: Jeff Jessee, Dean of the College of Health and Vice Provost of Health Programs

Cc: Donna Aguiniga, Committee Chair & Interim Director, CCEL  
Tracey Burke, Professor of Social Work  
Renee Carter-Chapman, Senior Vice Provost, Institutional Effectiveness

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** Civic Engagement UC

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** N/A

**Campuses where the program is delivered:** Anchorage

**Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role:**

The Civic Engagement UC prepares students to become active, effective, ethical citizens in their professional and personal lives. Students develop reflective, analytic and practical skills to link their learning to civic engagement through service-learning experiences, internships, community-engaged scholarship, and a capstone leadership course. The program is central to UAA's recognition as a community engaged university. Unfortunately, student interest in this program remains very low.

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

Since its inception, the Civic Engagement UC has struggled with program demand, efficiency, and productivity. According to data from Institutional Research, a total of 13 students have graduated from the program since 2013 (an average of 1.8 per year). In fall 2018, the number of majors was down to one. Course enrollments have remained low. From 2013 to 2019, average enrollments in the program's core courses were 14.6 students in CEL A292, 3.3 students in CEL A392, 5.3 students in CEL A395, and 1.4 students in CEL A450. In the core course with the highest average enrollment, CEL A292, there has been a steady decline in the number of students (from an average of 18 in 2013 to 11.4 in 2019). Enrollments have remained low, even in courses that are required by other programs. In fall 2019, a total of 33 students were enrolled in CEL courses (this is a duplicated count). Overall, despite valiant efforts to increase program demand and productivity, enrollment trends have not improved.

**Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success:**

With its focus on civic engagement, the program naturally incorporates several high impact practices to better help students have a meaningful and successful college experience. Program directors and adjunct faculty have worked diligently to maintain a high quality program. They have remained committed to student success. They continue to explore innovative ways to promote the program and its courses.

Unfortunately, these efforts have not improved course enrollments. Overall, the program is recognized for providing a high quality experience for students. It is unfortunate that so few students are taking advantage of the opportunity to enroll in CEL courses.

**Program Duplication / Distinctiveness:**

The Civic Engagement UC is unique. There are no other comparable programs in the state of Alaska.

**Commendations and Recommendations:**

Community engagement is central to the identity and reputation of UAA. The Center for Community Engagement and Learning has successfully stimulated and supported the university's commitment to community engagement. Unfortunately, its Civic Engagement UC has not achieved the expected demand and productivity. The College of Health recommends to suspend admissions. Major revisions are needed to improve program demand and productivity. Program deletion should be considered if program demand and productivity are not likely to improve. If the program is deleted, the university should consider alternative options for promoting civic engagement. As explained by the members of the program review committee, civic engagement is central to the mission of the university, but "the current 30-credit certificate mechanism does not work."

**Decision:**

Suspension.