Undergraduate Program Review
Geography, Geology and Physics
2002-2003

I.  Strengths:

1. Programs proficient at offering service courses to the university
2. Geography is attempting to add broadcast meteorology as a concentration
3. Physics has impressive grant funding
4. TTVN courses may be good service to our market
5. Geology indicates impressive efforts to keep course offerings current and relevant

II.  Weaknesses:

1. Geography and geology problems staffing courses
2. All seem to have limited recruitment activity
3. All have low majors
4. Geography and geology have limited travel funds and geology and physics have limited equipment funds
5. Courses specifically designed for education majors should have content correlation to Texas education standards on syllabi

III.  Recommendations:

1. Continue to offer service courses with existing faculty
2. If majors increase, hire geography faculty
3. Enhance recruitment efforts
4. Pursue outside funding
1-Year Follow-up

1. Continue to offer service courses with existing faculty. This is being done to the limits of faculty teaching load and enrollment limits.

2. If number of majors increases, hire geography faculty member when budget problems improve. Given the fact that the department has no real control over its budget, combined with the fact that an additional faculty member will contribute significantly to improving the number of majors, the department is continuing to pursue hiring a focused geography/geology faculty member with a specialty in GIS and remote sensing. Linkages to the College of Engineering are being strengthened to bolster the argument for this position.

3. Enhance recruitment efforts. Reach out from South Texas to recruit via advertisement, web pages, and/or other appropriate means. The department has increased the recruitment and outreach activities associated with all three programs. We are currently designing materials that can be sent to High School counselors and students to advertise the various opportunities.

4. Pursue outside funding. The department requires all faculty to participate in research, including pursuing outside funding. This participation is a part of the annual evaluation process for faculty.