Undergraduate Program Review
Human Sciences
2002-2003

I. **Strengths:**

1. The program review document was well done and stated those areas which are of concern
2. Assessment of curriculum is taking place and the assessment data is being utilized
3. Enrollment has been consistent for the past five years
4. Has strict writing requirement
5. Practical experience gained by students before graduation
6. Have developed articulation agreements with other institutions
7. Faculty are well-qualified and conduct externally funded research
8. Department was granted Accreditation of the Didactic Program in Dietetics

II. **Weaknesses:**

1. Faculty stability
2. Shortage of full time tenured or tenure-track faculty
3. High number of courses taught by part-time faculty
4. Limited course offerings every third semester
5. Limited recruitment activities
6. Limited funds for equipment and course materials
7. Number of publications is low

III. **Recommendations:**

1. Hire one or two additional full-time, tenure-track faculty
2. Recruit via advertisement, web pages, etc.
3. Seek additional external sources of funding for equipment and course materials
I-Year Follow-up

1. At the time the report was written faculty hiring had been put on hold even though we had requested to fill those positions. During the latter part of this semester we have been interviewing for a full-time, tenure-track faculty member in Food and Nutrition Sciences (FNS) as well as in Fashion and Interiors Merchandising (FIM). We hope to make an offer to an FIM candidate within the next few days. We have another FNS candidate coming in for an interview in late May. We hope that these efforts provide the faculty that we need to move our program forward toward the goals that we have set for the department.

2. If recruitment is referring to faculty recruiting, we have used the methods suggested as well as networking at meetings and contacting colleagues from major universities that have doctoral programs in the areas where we are seeking faculty. However, even with major efforts, some previous candidates have not wanted to come here due to the appearance of the Kingsville community. If recruitment is referring to student recruitment, we participate in the annual South Texas Career Expo, utilize the student members of our Leadership Council/Ambassadors, and have faculty visit the area schools they have “adopted” and where we are doing focused recruitment.

3. Overall, we have been able to meet the needs for our basic programs through careful fiscal management and funding that we have obtained from a private foundation that provides funds for professional development opportunities for both faculty and students. However, since this report was prepared we have hired a faculty member with a strong focus on nutrition sciences, an area that we wanted to strengthen. He has been obtaining external funding to help fund his research projects in that area as well as to obtain more laboratory equipment and course materials. He will be employing several of our undergraduate students in his lab to give them increased research opportunities.

II. Weaknesses:

1.-3. We have lost tenure-track faculty through death, the need to leave the area to care for ill parents, and an advancement to higher level positions at another university. Even though salaries here are adequate, we have been unable to make hires because salaries were not competitive. Nationally there is a shortage of Ph.D., Registered Dietitian (RD) graduates which are the qualifications we need to the FNS position we currently have open. Item 3 will be dealt with when we hire the type of faculty we want and need.
4. Given the range of our program content, we cannot offer courses as frequently as we desire. However, we have eliminated some course duplication and decreased the number of courses so our rotations in some content areas are more frequent than previously. For example: we eliminated HSCI 1340 Color and Design and now have our students take ARTS 1311 which covers the same basic concepts. Through joining the Family and Consumer Sciences Distance Education Alliance we have been able to outsource two courses so that Senior Seminar and Methods and Teaching Strategies can be offered every spring. Three courses, Fundamentals of Fashion, Food Preparation and Meal Management, and Introductory Nutrition are offered each fall semester. Introduction to Human Sciences is offered each semester. We are able to do this due to demand.

5. Limited student recruitment has been somewhat hampered due to not having people in the tenure-track positions and being able to more strongly promote the fact that they need to recruit for their programs.

6. This was addressed in recommendations.

7. Until the FNS person was hired in Spring 2003, we have not had reassigned time for research with the exception of Dr. Lisa Appelt who left after two years and as a newly minted Ph.D., RD and did not have time to develop a research agenda that lead to publications. When Dr. McArthur had reassigned time, it was not for research but rather to manage several grant programs. Thus I need a clarification on where the reviewers saw the reassigned time for research.