Undergraduate Program Review  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
2005-2006

I. Strengths

1. The program proposal was reviewed and approved by the Program Director for Educator Preparation at the Higher Education Coordinating Board. The program has gone through several stages of reviews recently.

2. Center for Professional Development of Teachers (CPDT) is a great achievement.

3. The program faculty are involved in recruitment effort and student advising.

4. The program is accredited by the Texas State Board for Educator Certification and satisfies all other state accreditation requirements.

5. Regular monthly meeting of faculty provides regular feedback and coordination of the program.

6. Students have more field-experience and have longer teaching experience than comparable programs.

7. Student perception of the quality of the program and the faculty is good.

8. The pass rate on TExES exam exceeds state accreditation rate.

9. Excellent job placement record of graduates.

10. Ranked number one in the percentage of teachers employed after six-years after receiving initial certification among all TAMUS institutions.

11. Ranked number three in retention of Texas institutions producing more than 100 new teachers per year.

12. Good employer evaluation and interest in hiring graduates.

II. Weaknesses

1. Decline in student enrollment.

2. No full time advisor/recruiter for the program.
3. Because of the nature of the program, a great deal of coordination is required especially for the degrees from other colleges. No process seems to exist for coordinating the degree plans.

4. Number of non-tenured track faculty seems high. No reasons have been provided to justify the high numbers of non-tenure track faculty.

5. More than 20% FTE is taught by part-time faculty.

6. Lack of financial support for professional development and travel for faculty.

7. Inability to attract and retain tenure track faculty.

8. No national accreditation.

III. Recommendations

1. The Curriculum and Instruction Department offers a strong undergraduate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with 12 active degree plans in teacher certification taught by well-qualified faculty.

2. The committee recommends that the program receive unconditional continuation. However, the program should implement the following recommendations to improve the quality of the program:

   a. Increase enrollment/recruitment effort.
   b. Hire full time advisor/recruiter.
   c. Hire and retain more tenure-track faculty.
   d. Provide professional development and travel funds for faculty.
   e. Seek national accreditation.

One-Year Follow-Up

Unconditional continuation