

To: Jennifer Summit, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
APRC

From: Andrew Harris, Dean of the College of Liberal & Creative Arts

Date: August 31, 2018

Re: Liberal Studies Seventh Cycle Dean's Response

The external Seventh Cycle reviewers conclude that the Liberal Studies Program is at a “an exciting and opportune moment” in the program’s history. Their report acknowledges the diligence and hard work of the Liberal Studies faculty and Director to date, to structure the curriculum Elementary Subject Matter Review and ITEP to meet the California Subject Matter Examination (CSET) requirements, as well as their broader curriculum revision. They note that this work, and with what they describe as “modest resources,” Liberal Studies is poised to create a “groundbreaking teacher preparation program that could easily become a flagship program” for the College and the University. The report suggests next steps, with the following recommendations:

1. Develop multidisciplinary courses in faculty areas of specialization that could satisfy CSET requirements
2. Develop lower division general education courses to expose students to the teacher preparation major earlier in their career, and consider ways to make waiver courses count for the major and/or GE, and incorporate service learning
3. Reinstitute the Liberal Studies council and increase support for the LS Chair to allow the time necessary to develop relationships across campus to develop courses to support the waiver
4. Hire two additional tenure track faculty
5. Hire a new staff person to be Associate Director, to coordinate programs and advising
6. Increase Director of Hum-LS compensation with a 1.0 appointment
7. Support pre-tenure faculty with release time/reduced teaching loads
8. Provide furniture basics such as bookshelves and newer computer monitors for faculty
9. Create/reconfigure space so student workers can assist with Liberal Studies advisor’s clerical responsibilities
10. Hire a second advisor; get advisors and faculty trained on EAB when it becomes available

Dean’s Recommendation:

We would like to commend Liberal Studies for a well-written Self Study which outlines its careful, considered work developing the curricula for the Elementary Subject Matter Requirements and the Integrated Teacher Education Program. As the reviewers make clear, the changes to the Liberal Studies curriculum is built on the interdisciplinary strength of the Liberal Studies faculty, their innovative pedagogical strategies and

expansion of their multidisciplinary curriculum. The school's response to the report acknowledges the strong support of the external reviewers, and notes that the ESMR and ITEP have now been approved by the University.

I recommend the program prioritize curriculum and course development and reinstitute the Liberal Studies Council among the recommendations. I agree that greater exposure to Liberal Studies through general education courses is likely to be a successful way to bring new students into the teacher training program early in their academic careers, and would be willing to reallocate modest FTES targets and advocate for additional FTES funding to support growth in this area under the new budget model. Given the uncertainty and limited number of faculty lines in general, and contingent upon future relative needs within the College and University, I support one hire of a faculty member who has experience in elementary teacher training and whose interdisciplinary research will contribute to underrepresented areas of scholarship in the curriculum. I would also explore constructing a faculty line with some responsibilities in the Graduate College of Education.

Pre-tenured faculty already receive reassigned time for professional development in their first year, and while I am open to new faculty using this time in the service of their program, the College does not have the resources to support additional time beyond this. Furthermore, release time is not the only way to accomplish this—stipends for exceptional work beyond normal course preparation could be a useful investment, pending funding. The College does not have funding to add a new staff person to coordinate the program as an associate director, but it is appropriate to consider reallocating other reassigned time in the School for this role. Given the complex nature of the School's organization and governance, I would support the concept of an associate director with limited reassigned time and evaluate need again as the projected enrollment growth manifests. Also related to the School's complexity and number of students served (in Liberal Studies and also in Humanities, American Studies, and California Studies), I support increasing the Director's administrative assignment from 0.4 to 0.6, commensurate with other large and complex academic units in the College. Reorganization of space to support student assistants can be explored, but actual expansion will not be possible until the new LCA building opens up space across the college.