



# Northern Marianas College

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**March 28, 2007**

**To:** Danny Wyatt  
Acting President

**From:** Robert Churney, Director  
Office of Institutional Effectiveness

**Re:** Program Review Update

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As per your request, below is an update of program review activities which address aspects of Team Recommendations 2 & 4 on student learning outcomes and program review.

## **I. Institutionalization of a Faculty Role in Program Review**

**Faculty Senate Resolution** – On March 21, 2007 the Faculty Senate approved a resolution whereby the Senate will take on a formal program review role by monitoring and evaluating the program review process.

**Academic Council Bylaws** – On March 22, 2007 the Academic Council (NMC's curriculum committee) approved bylaws which include a formal Council role in coordinating and monitoring the course review activities of the program review process.

## **II. Liberal Arts Program Review**

**Course Review By Faculty** -- Instructors are providing information and analysis of 17 Liberal Arts courses. Work is currently in progress and will be completed by June 30, 2007. Instructors are providing the following:

**Alignment** -- Verification of alignment between approved course guide student learning outcomes and course evaluation instruments.

**Assessment** – Narrative of assessment performed on the course.

**Critical Thinking** – Analysis of the critical thinking components of the course.

The Liberal Arts courses being reviewed are:

- 1.) **AR101 Introduction to Art** – Barry Wonenberg (*M.Ed. Framingham State College*)
- 2.) **BI101 Principles of Biology** – Simon Habegger (*M.A. Duke University*)
- 3.) **CO210 Fundamentals of Speech Communication** – Mark Haag (*M.A. University of San Francisco*), Dean Papadopoulos (*Ph.D. University of Southern Mississippi*)
- 4.) **CS103 Introduction to Computers** – Willhelm Maui (*M.S. University of Nevada*)
- 5.) **EN101 English Composition I** – Mike Nurmi (*M.A. Indiana University of Pennsylvania*), Bruce Johnson (*M.A. University of Hawaii at Manoa*), Dean Papadopoulos (*Ph.D. University of Southern Mississippi*)
- 6.) **EN202 English Composition II** – Mike Nurmi (*M.A. Indiana University of Pennsylvania*), David Rumptz (*M.A. Columbia University*)
- 7.) **GE101 Introduction to Geography** – Frank Sobolewski (*M.A. University of Hawaii at Manoa*)
- 8.) **HE150 Personal Health** – Lisa Lunde (*B.A. University of Wisconsin*)
- 9.) **HI102 American Nation II** – Frank Sobolewski (*M.A. University of Hawaii at Manoa*)
- 10.) **JA201 Intermediate Japanese I** – Hiroko Yasutaka (*B.A. Keio University*), Tom Colton (*M.Ed. Temple University*)
- 11.) **LI150 Introduction to Literature** – Mark Haag (*M.A. University of San Francisco*), Mike Nurmi (*M.A. Indiana University of Pennsylvania*)
- 12.) **MA132 Intermediate Algebra** – Eric Johnson (*M.S. University of Northern Colorado*)
- 13.) **NS101 Introduction to Physical Science** – Glenn Keaton (*M.S. Portland State University*)
- 14.) **PE226 Intermediate Volleyball** -- Kurt Barnes (*Ph.D. University of San Diego*)
- 15.) **PS110 Principles of Democratic Institutions** – Frank Sobolewski (*M.A. University of Hawaii at Manoa*)
- 16.) **PY101 General Psychology** – Deane Jesse Jones – (*M. Ed. University of Guam*)

**17.) SO297 Current Issues in the CNMI – Sam McPhetres (M.A. Centre European Universitaire)**

**Liberal Arts Program Committee** – The committee convened its first meeting on February 23, 2007. The committee discussed the data collection phase of the Liberal Arts program review process; the course review responsibilities assigned to faculty; and the role of the Academic Council in the Liberal Arts program review process.

**Student Tracking of Liberal Arts Graduates** -- Using the National Student Clearinghouse student tracking service, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) submitted a search of five years of Liberal Arts graduates (2002-2006) which amounted to 234 students. Of these, it was found that 72 had transferred to off-island four-year colleges. Fourteen of these have been awarded degrees by the college they transferred to, and 41 of them are still enrolled. In addition, of these 234 Liberal Arts graduates over this five-year period, 59 transferred to the NMC School of Education bachelor's in elementary education program. Ten have already earned the bachelor's degree, and 32 are still enrolled in the program. OIE is now in the process of following up on these graduates for additional information. The office is currently preparing another five year search going back to 1997. As a caveat, the National Student Clearinghouse contains approximately 91% of American colleges, so some NMC graduates may not be listed. In addition, a few records are typically blocked by either the student or the college.

**Article in a Local Newspaper on the Liberal Arts Program Review** – OIE submitted a press release on the Liberal Arts Program Review to the *Saipan Tribune* which outlined the program review process and made a call for alumni to contact us via email. An article entitled "NMC seeks alumni input on AA program" appeared on March 14, 2007. While the article was effective in explaining the program review process to the public, it was not effective as a tool for soliciting voluntary feedback from Liberal Arts program alumni. OIE's follow-up effort will be through initial contacts with alumni families by telephone.

### **III. Counseling Services Program Review**

The Counseling office has operationalized their four Unit Objectives and begun collecting data to measure them. Some of this data has already been used to inform improvement in counseling operations. In addition, the office has developed a total of 18 student learning outcomes related to counseling services. Of these learning outcomes, four of what are considered to be the most important for this program review cycle have been operationalized for measurement.