

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW BOARD 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:

The Academic Program Review Board (APRB) respectfully submits its report of activities for the 2019-20 academic year.

I. Board Operations

Jutta Heckhausen, Professor of Psychological Science in the School of Social Ecology, continued to chair APRB during the 2019-20 academic year. APRB is a joint board of the Council on Educational Policy (CEP) and the Graduate Council. It met twice during the academic year in addition to conducting business by email to discuss and plan for the 2020 academic program review of the School of Social Sciences.

II. Academic Program Reviews

A. School of Social Sciences

The academic program review of School of Social Sciences was originally scheduled for the 2019-20 academic year with the on-site visit to take place on April 21-24, 2020. The APRB recruited 18 faculty members from other UC campuses and top institutions to serve as the external review committee for the School of Social Sciences. The charge for the on-site review, based on the self-study materials, faculty and student survey results, and institutional data generated by the School and the Office of Institutional Research, was developed by APRB members in consultation with CEP, Graduate Council, the Dean of Undergraduate Education, and the Dean of the Graduate Division.

In March 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions at the time, the on-site visit was changed to a remote format. Subsequently as the situation rapidly evolved, the APRB, in close coordination with Dean Maurer, the leadership of the Academic Senate and the Administration, decided to postpone the review to next year to allow for an in-person site visit that would better accomplish the goals of the academic program review. The external review committee was pleased with the campus's decision of postponement and indicated its interest in participating the following year.

B. School of Education – Year 1 Follow-Up

The School of Education underwent an academic program review during the 2018-19 academic year. In Spring 2020, the Senate forwarded to the Provost the external review committee report, the response from the School, and the evaluations from both CEP and Graduate Council. In Spring 2020, the APRB asked the School of Education to submit its year 1 follow-up report, which details the School's assessment of the recommendations made by the external reviewers and the steps the School plans to take to improve on weaknesses and/or enhance strengths. In its communication to the School, the APRB offered to coordinate a meeting between the School, the Administration, and the Senate to discuss those recommendations of the report which would benefit from Senate and/or campus administrative support.

C. Program in Public Health – Year 1 Follow-Up

The Program in Public Health underwent an academic program review during the 2018-19 academic year. In Spring 2020, the Senate forwarded to the Provost the external review committee report, the response from the Program, and the evaluations from both CEP and Graduate Council. In addition, the APRB asked the Program in Public Health to submit its year 1 follow-up report, which details the Program’s assessment of the recommendations made by the external reviewers and the steps the Program plans to take to improve on weaknesses and/or enhance strengths. In its communication to the Program, the APRB offered to coordinate a meeting between the Program, the Administration, and the Senate to discuss those recommendations of the report which would benefit from Senate and/or campus administrative support.

D. Henry Samueli School of Engineering – Year 4 Follow-Up

In Spring 2020, the School of Engineering was asked to submit a brief follow-up report to its 2015-16 academic program review. The APRB asked that the School describe the actions taken by the School to address the issues raised in its review. Due to the recent change in leadership, the School of Engineering will submit its year 4 follow-up report in September 2020, instead of Summer 2020 as originally scheduled. CEP and Graduate Council will review that report and submit comments to the APRB in Fall 2020.

E. School of Humanities – Year 7 Follow-Up

In Spring 2020, the School of Humanities was asked to submit a brief follow-up report to its 2012-13 academic program review. The APRB asked that the School evaluate the effectiveness of its efforts to address the issues raised in its review and begin to consider its priorities in anticipation of the next academic program review. In Summer 2020, the School of Humanities submitted its year 7 follow-up report. CEP and Graduate Council will review that report and submit comments to the APRB in Fall 2020.

F. 2020-21 Academic Program Review and Impact of COVID-19

Due to COVID-19, the academic program reviews scheduled to take place during the 2019-20 and 2020-2021 academic years have been postponed for one year; this action requires pushing back all future school reviews by one year. This is a one-time extraordinary decision due to the global pandemic and the APRB does not anticipate approving additional postponements. Follow-up reviews for school reviews performed before the 2019-20 academic year will not be affected by these delays. In the event that travel for the external review committee and on-site visits are not possible due to COVID-19, the APRB will conduct reviews remotely.

III. APRB Membership

Jutta Heckhausen, School of Social Ecology, APRB Chair

James Brody, Henry Samueli School of Engineering, CEP Representative

John Turner, Paul Merage School of Business, CEP Representative

Chuansheng Chen, School of Social Ecology, Graduate Council Representative

Feng Qiao, Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences, Graduate Council Representative

Thao Nguyen, APRB Analyst