Memorandum

TO: Academic Council
CC: Addison Everett, Associate Dean Humanities and Social Sciences and Leonor Ceballos, Department Chair
FROM: Institutional Effectiveness Committee
RE: Foreign Languages Program Review
DATE: September 21, 2011

On September 20, 2011 the Institutional Effectiveness Committee reviewed the Foreign Languages Program Review and the external evaluation submitted by Dr. Baldomero Lago, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages at Utah Valley University. The Committee unanimously agreed to forward the program review to the Academic Council with a recommendation that it be approved.

The Committee further agreed to accept Dr. Lago’s evaluation as a fair and substantially useful assessment of the DSC foreign languages department. The Committee noted that many of Dr. Lago’s recommendations will be very valuable as the department works to develop a proposal for a baccalaureate degree in Spanish.

The Committee understands that since the program review was submitted, the department has continued to work on some of the deficiencies mentioned. Foreign Languages has moved to its new location at University Plaza, where there will eventually be room to develop a language lab. In addition, work to improve assessment is continuing.

The Committee also commends the Foreign Language Department for:
- The clarity and coherence of its course sequencing;
- An effective and productive faculty who do a great deal with limited resources; and
- Efforts to close the assessment loop by referencing its program review of five years ago to address recommendations.

The Committee offers the following recommendations:
- Continue to make the creation of a language lab a top priority for the department.
- Assessment is uneven in all languages except Spanish because of the adjunct faculty staffing. Adjuncts should not be writing assessments. A standardized assessment document should come from the full-time department faculty and be mandated for use by all adjuncts.
- The department should give serious consideration to increasing no further its offerings in languages besides Spanish in the short term and concentrating its efforts and resources on developing a top-notch BA in Spanish.
- The department should keep track of graduates in the Integrated Studies Spanish Emphasis program, in part to help justify the student demand for a Spanish baccalaureate, and in part to supplement assessment data.
- The department should continue to develop a study-abroad program, especially as a degree program is in its future.
- The department should continue to work with the Multicultural Center and other campus departments to identify foreign language tutors.