I have received the CLS Program Review, Self Study for 2008 Accreditation Review, and the CLAS Curriculum Committee’s report. The program review, delivered February 5, 2010, is discussed below under several categories, strength of the review, concerns of the review, recommendations, and follow up requirements.

Strength of the Review: The Program review shows that the CLS program has high admittance and retention standards. These standards translate into a 100% pass rate for closure exams and job placement. The Program also has a well established site evaluation, visit, and feedback system for clinical sites which strengthens the education experience for students. The CLS program also has a well established and successful system of advising pre-majors and majors. Finally, the program received a 7 year accreditation from the NAACLS with no citations.

Concerns of the Review: The major concern, as noticed by the Curriculum Committee, is the recruitment/retention of students. Since the program has a limited number of spots, it is difficult to recruit much more above the maximum; on the other hand, if attrition is greater than planned, there is no way to “re-fill” the spots. This leads to a difficult situation. I agree with the Curriculum Committee in that the program should continue its efforts with CTL and within the program to explore ways to strengthen retention. The program may also wish to explore ways to expose lower division students with the program and its potential career opportunities. The program should continue its efforts to increase recruitment sites and develop 2 + 2 agreements with other community colleges.

Recommendations: The program should examine the recommendations made by the CLAS Curriculum Committee concerning the pre-med concentration, specifically, the program needs to determine if it can meet its program needs and contribute to the pre-med concentration. It is conceivable that some seats in the CLS program can be made available to non-CLS students, but the program needs to ensure that it can meets its need first without causing an issue for the pre-med concentration. The program should also continue to examine recruitment strategies to ensure adequate enrollments. The program should do an analysis of their retention rates and perhaps adjust their recruitment target appropriately to ensure full capacity.
Follow up requirements: The program should ensure that it has a Student Learning Outcome Assessment plan with data being collected for the interim review in three years as required by CASTL and UGC.

Cc: Linda McCown
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