

Annual Assessment Report

Academic Year 2004-2005

This year the department received no additional funding from the Provost's office for high-demand courses. This forced the department to re-examine its offerings and trim expenses where possible:

1. PORT offerings were reduced to only PORT 3040.
2. KOR offerings were reduced to only 2000-level courses for the year.
3. We began working toward a schedule for FREN and GERM courses which would reduce off-semester offerings (e.g., 2020 courses offered in the fall).

There were also the following curriculum changes:

4. We tested and adopted the F-CAPE and G-CAPE placement tests for students with previous knowledge of French or German.
5. Faculty began discussions of equitable workload assignment and worked through several drafts of a proposed workload document. As part of this process, it became clear that we need to designate someone as "assessment czar" to coordinate efforts within and among our different programs. The czar will be given a 1-course reduction in teaching.

The Department Head conducted exit interviews with several graduating students. (All graduating students were invited; only seven made appointments.) Students reported valuable experiences in each of our programs: dedicated and knowledgeable faculty, helpful and friendly advising, interesting coursework, and fair grading. Each student was extremely pleased with his/her experience with the department, making the following remarks:

"... the professors have done a great job in educating me."
"... in terms of advising, this is the best school of the four I have attended."
"... the secretaries are great!"

When pressed, the following suggestions were made:

- ease enrollment bottlenecks in Spanish;
- integrate efforts with Study Abroad so students know of opportunities;
- provide weblink to Study Abroad;
- provide greater publicity of departmental scholarships;
- MSLT should communicate more with Sec Ed to ensure the same material isn't covered in separate classes;
- MSLT should provide an emphasis on multi-cultural education;

- MSLT should include discussion of methodology in adult education;
- “MSLT”, as the name of a degree, should have greater recognition.

In response to these suggestions, we will revamp our webpage; invite Study Abroad to give presentations to classes; and announce departmental scholarships earlier in the year, through classes, posters, and email lists. The suggestions regarding the MSLT will be passed along to the MSLT committee for its response. The bottleneck problem in Spanish simply will not go away without additional support.