

Annual Assessment Report

Academic Year 2008-2009

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head. Taira Koybaeva served as Associate Department Head. The department had two members, Charlie Huenemann and Cacilda Rego, successfully go up for promotion. Charlie was promoted to Full Professor and Cacilda was given tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. In addition, Jennifer Peebles and Charlie Huenemann served either all or part of the year on sabbaticals. Four faculty position searches were completed successfully. David Richter was hired for a tenure track position in Spanish. Doris McGonagill was hired for a tenure track position in German. Aaron Roggia was hired for a tenure track position for the Spanish-Brigham City position. Ko-Yin Sung was hired as a full-time lecturer in Chinese. Gayle Houser and Jilda Yap (both lecturers) took advantage of the voluntary separation packages the university offered as part of budget reduction measures the university had to make due to cuts from the legislature. The department was unable to continue with the visiting instructor lines. Kent Robson retired after 40 years of service and Mark Larsen retired after 21 years of service. Chuck Johnson passed away after a long and bravely fought battle with cancer. We appreciate their many years of service and will miss their dedication to the Philosophy and Spanish programs respectively.

This was a good year in terms of college recognition. Charlie Huenemann won the HASS Researcher of the Year Award. Jennifer Peebles won the HASS Teacher of the Year for the Humanities Division Award. Atsuko Neely won the HASS Faculty Advisor of the Year Award, Felix Tweraser won the HASS Humanist of the Year Award, and Jilda Yap won the HASS Lecturer of the Year Award.

A major topic for discussion was the restructuring of the department. The Dean, Yolanda Flores Niemann, felt it was best to have a languages only department and move Philosophy to History and make Speech Communication part of a new combination Communication program with Journalism and Communication and Utah Public Radio. At the end of the year these moves were still pending as it was decided further time and exploration was needed. It was expected that these moves will be an ongoing point of discussion.

All of the study abroad programs (French, German, and Spanish) were successful this year. The Spanish program had what may be a record number of students, 31 attend the program in Spain. Finally, the department spent some time this year working on a visioning document and also on developing assessment rubrics and plans for implementing these. The department remains committed to the success of each of the students, staff and faculty associated with it.