

## **Annual Assessment Report**

### Summary of Departmental News for the Academic Year 2019-2020

Brad Hall continued to serve as Department Head and Ko-Yin Sung served as the Associate Department Head. The department graduated 185 students this year. The Chinese major was announced in August and graduated its first six graduates in 2020. The department also had an Arabic Studies minor approved and a co-coordinated minor in Middle East Studies approved. The department now houses ten distinct majors and three additional “teaching” majors that are attached to our language majors. The department has 17 separate minors. The department has two separate graduate programs. The department was able to hire three new full-time faculty. Rachel Robison-Greene was hired as an Assistant Professor in Philosophy. Sydney O’Shay Wallace was hired as an Assistant Professor in Communication Studies. Sarah O’Neill was hired as a Lecturer in Spanish. In addition, four temporary hires were made: Michael Otteson and Megan Fritts were hired in Philosophy and Jeanette German and Samantha Shebib were hired in Communication Studies. We had two faculty retire: Kevin Krogh in Spanish and Gordon Steinhoff in Philosophy. We also had other faculty who left USU, including Erica Holberg, Dan Wack, Aarti Arora, and Kristin Andersen (the later three were temporary hires).

Six faculty members were promoted this year. Abdulkafi Albirini and Matthew Sanders were both promoted to Full Professor. Jason Gilmore and Harrison Kleiner were both promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Yurika Izumi and Taira Nieves were both promoted to Senior Lecturer. Our faculty members continue with the tradition of excellence in all areas. Over the last year (2019) the faculty members have published eight books, 53 journal articles, and 30 book chapters. They have made 102 conference presentations. In addition, the IDEA teaching evaluations for all of the LPCS benefitted faculty over the last year averaged 57 on the summary converted score, which is in the IDEA’s top 30% nationwide. This takes into account the excellence of the course, the teacher, and how well the course objectives are met. To have our “average score” be in the “higher” category on this national form speaks well for the department as a whole and the learning environment that exists overall.

The following were given departmental awards: Researcher of the Year – Ko-Yin Sung; Teacher of the Year – Doris McGonagill; Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year – Tim Curran; Faculty Service Award – Crescencio Lopez-Gonzalez; Faculty Mentor of the Year – Clair Canfield; Lecturer of the Year – Marta Halaczkiwicz; Adjunct Teacher of the Year – Marina Bernal. Our student scholarship program continues to go well. However, due to COVID-19, we had to skip our student research symposium and we also did an online graduate notice for our students in the Spring that had faculty record well wishes that were posted on Canvas. In addition, in the middle of March all classes were moved to remote learning. The staff, faculty, and students in the department work together well and produce an excellent learning environment.