

Southern Polytechnic State University

CPR Findings and Plans for Business Administration Program at Southern Polytechnic state University

Business Administration Degrees Awarded at Southern Polytechnic State University:

- Bachelor of Arts with major in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science with major in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Applied Science with major in Business Administration
- Master of Business Administration

I. Major Findings on Program's Quality and Productivity

Appendix A that accompanies this summary statement, is a recent report submitted by the Business Administration Department to its accrediting agency, the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Our accreditation with this organization dates from 1993. Most recently we submitted data that has led to virtually unconditional re-accreditation, with only a single minor issue related to program assessment requiring resolution. In addition to our departmental efforts in addressing this issue, the university is in the process of initiating outcomes-based assessments for all programs campus-wide.

The growth of our program coupled with short term university funding constraints has required us to hire additional part-time faculty. While we still meet all accreditation standards even with more adjunct staff, we anticipate that the department will be able to increase its full-time teaching staff with the allocation of several new faculty positions by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. However, in order to maintain program quality, the department has developed and implemented a detailed plan for the overall management of part-time faculty. We have designated lead full-time faculty as coordinators for all courses taught by adjunct instructors. These "lead faculty" are involved in both the screening of new hires as well as for monitoring all adjunct instructors in their discipline. The department also holds an orientation session for all adjuncts prior to the start of each semester.

The department has shown superior performance in retaining qualified faculty members. In the past ten years, only two tenured or tenure-tracked faculty members have left the institution, with one of those leaving as a consequence of retirement. Currently, the department's eight full-time faculty members have a combined 171 years of teaching experience, with a combined 79 years of teaching at Southern Polytechnic State University.

Table 5.4a of Appendix A summarizes the work load for full-time faculty members. It includes semester hour teaching load, number of students assigned for advisement, scholarly and professional activity as well as faculty service to the institution and community. Full-time faculty members have consistently been active and engaged in all aspects of their assigned duties. The department's accrediting agency agrees with this characterization of faculty by certifying that we have complied with their assessment standard 5.4 that states that "faculty as a whole must accomplish the following nine essential responsibilities":

- Classroom teaching assignments.
- Student advising and counseling activities.
- Scholarly and professional activities.
- Community and college service activities.
- Administrative activities.
- Business and industry interaction.

II. Strategic Decisions Related to Program Modification (Viability)

Appendix B titled Department of Business Growth Plan outlines the objectives that the department has established so that it can continue to grow and be a competitive educational force within the community. These include:

- Changing from a department to a separate School of Business Administration within Southern Polytechnic State University.
- Offering all of the required MBA courses, including transition courses as well as selected electives on-line within the next 3 years.
- Develop and obtain approval for an undergraduate degree in Accounting as well as a MBA Accounting graduate concentration.
- Develop and offer undergraduate and graduate level concentrations in Finance.
- Develop a program that provides our Business Administration students a study abroad experience at two of international partner institutions (Germany and China).
- Inclusion courses in Business Leadership within our curriculum.
- Working with the University's Department of Industrial Engineering Technology to develop undergraduate course options in quality and logistics.
- Development of articulation agreements with accredited DTAE schools as a means of increasing enrollment in our BAS in Management degree.
- Development of online courses to provide prospective BAS students residing throughout Georgia with the opportunity to enroll in our course offerings.
- Hiring additional full-time tenure-track faculty.
- Securing full ACBSP accreditation with no notes or conditions. Begin work on acquiring AACSB accreditation.

