

Academic Program Review Recommendations:
Annual Progress Report

The purpose of the Annual Progress Report is to facilitate the tracking of progress made on program recommendations/goals and to identify and explain the addition of any new program goals not listed in the most recent Review.

1. Name of Program: Business & Entrepreneurship

2. List goals from most recent [Program Review](#) and report on progress for each goal:

Recommendation One: Develop and establish Business Administration Advisory Committee.

Progress:

In August, 2018, CGCC's new president, Dr. Cronin, revamped the college's committees to eliminate excessive committees and dissolved the BA Advisory Board part of the SBDC Board.

In January, 2020, Todd Meislahn discussed the possibility of resurrecting the joint advisory board with new SBDC Director, Greg Price (the SBDC board had been, indirectly, dissolved by the former SBDC Director). The tentative conclusion was that the purposes of an SBDC board and a Business & Entrepreneurship board did not mesh. Any further progress was tabled due to the pandemic.

Recommendation Two: Develop strategies to increase outreach to potential students for Business Administration programs, and to provide support for enrolled students.

Progress:

In June 2020, the Business & Entrepreneurship department received approval from the VP of Instructional Services, Jarett Gilbert, to pilot a flexible participation mode whereby students could choose, from week to week, whether to attend synchronously or asynchronously (or face-to-face, although F2F classes were cancelled due to the pandemic). The mode was given the working title "FlexConnect."

All Business & Entrepreneurship courses were converted to the FlexConnect mode and implemented Fall term 2020. Surveys gathered throughout the school year indicated that 97% of students had a positive overall impression of the new mode. Additionally, 61% indicated that they preferred the asynchronous option in FlexConnect to the traditional online mode and 51% indicated that they would be more likely to complete their program (or return to CGCC the following term) if courses continued to be offered in FlexConnect.

In August, 2020, Vice President Gilbert approved continuation of the FlexConnect offerings within the Business & Entrepreneurship department.

Update from prior annual progress report:

Hood River Valley High School was working with Mr. Meislahn to provide students dual credit for BA 101 in the 2019-20 school year. However, the plan was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Recommendation Three: Develop courses, certificates and degrees to keep up with the ever changing business environment.

Progress:

The Entrepreneurship/Business Management AAS Degree, Entrepreneurship certificate, Accounting AAS Degree, and Accounting/Bookkeeping Certificate have all undergone fine-tuning revisions for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years.

As stated above, all courses were converted to the FlexConnect mode allowing students more flexibility and the opportunity for all-asynchronous degrees and certificates (notwithstanding any required courses outside of the Business & Entrepreneurship department).

Recommendation Four: Create full-time positions for part-time instructors including a new position and/or to replace former full-time instructor, (retired in 2015-6).

Progress:

In September, 2019, Todd Meislahn, former CGCC SBDC Director, was hired for the new, full-time faculty position opened in July, 2019.

With the implementation of FlexConnect, two part-time instructors living out of state (Arizona and Texas) were unable to fulfill the requirement for face-to-face/synchronous instruction. Additionally, due to the pandemic, two local instructors were unable (or unwilling) to fulfill the CGCC-mandated requirement for distance learning.

Subsequently, Mr. Meislahn hired two new, local part-time instructors as well as contacting former Dean, Stephen Schwiff, and UAS program director, Mike Davis, both of whom agreed to teach for the department.

Recommendation Five: Prepare for next Five-Year Program Review

Progress: The prior Review was discussed at the departmental retreat in June, 2021 as well as plans for the upcoming Review.

3. List any additional goals added since the most recent Program Review, and include the rationale for each new goal:

No new goals have been added since the last annual progress report.

Update from prior annual progress report:

1. Create a Department Chair position. Rationale: To lead the department's recruitment efforts, bring the program in alignment leading to the capstone courses and Portfolio of accomplishments. To link the BA program with the Business and larger community including the BA Advisory Board.

Progress: Tabled due to budgetary considerations and the pandemic. Mr. Meislahn is, unofficially, acting in that capacity.

2. Development of Accounting Degree capstone. Rationale: Provide value to our graduates and portfolio of work to aid in employment searches.

Progress: To be introduced in the 2022-23 school year.