

10/23/2017

Comprehensive Program Review Committee  
Columbus State University  
Columbus, GA 31907

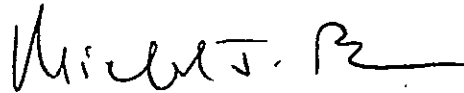
Re: Comprehensive Review Program Self Study

Dear CPR Committee,

The Comprehensive External Review Committee has met with Dr. Van Kley to review and assess his study on the Liberal Arts Program. Overall, the program reflects viability but improvement is necessary as well. Please see the attached recommendations that can enhance the program.



Fred Gordon  
Chair, Department of Politics,  
Philosophy and Public Administration



Michael Baun  
Professor of Political Science  
Valdosta State University



Michael Bailey  
Chair, Department of Criminal Justice

## EXTERNAL TEAM REVIEW REPORT

October 2017

1. Introduction – This External Review Team addresses the Comprehensive Program Review (CPR) by the Liberal Arts Program. The format of the CPR is provided by the university's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at the university's website at <http://ir.columbusstate.edu/assess/CPRplan.php>
  
- II. The External Review Team consisted of Frederick Gordon, Chair of the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Public Administration at Columbus State University, Dr. Michael Baun, Professor of Political Science at Valdosta State University. Dr. Baun holds a PhD in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. And Dr. Michael Bailey, Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at Columbus State University.

### Findings of the External Review Committee

The Liberal Arts Program is a fairly new interdisciplinary program that offers students the opportunity to earn a BA degree in one of three tracks: Military and Global Issues, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Philosophy. All three tracks have utility and meet the needs of a specific group of students. The Liberal Arts Program thus provides students with more options for earning a degree and greater flexibility in their programs of study. However, the program has some weaknesses and problems, including low enrollments and number of degrees earned – something which can in part be explained by the newness of the program – and its lack of success in promoting a sense of community among Liberal Arts majors. Another identified weakness, the lack of opportunities for program students to conduct and present their research, might be a means of addressing the lack of community and inclusion. The Philosophy track also seems a bit narrow and less interdisciplinary than the other two tracks and might benefit from some rethinking or redefinition, perhaps by broadening its focus to Philosophy and Public Affairs. The program also lacks adequate plans for improvement. Overall, however, the Liberal Arts Program has value and supports the university's mission, and this study can help identify ways to improve the program and make it stronger.

## **Section Two – Indicators of Program Quality**

### **II. Summary Findings of Program's Overall Quality**

**Self Study: Satisfactory**

**Review Team: Concur.**

#### **II A. The Quality of Faculty**

**Self Study: Satisfactory**

**Review Team: Concur**

#### **II B. The Quality of Teaching**

**Self Study: Satisfactory**

**Review Team: Concur**

#### **II C. The Quality of Research and Scholarship**

**Self Study: Satisfactory**

**Review Team: Concur**

#### **II D. Quality of Service**

**Self Study: Above Average**

**Review Team: Concur**

#### **II E. The Quality of Faculty and Student Achievements**

**Self Study: Below Average**

Review Team: Concur

## II F. The Quality of Curriculum

Self Study: Satisfactory

Review Team: Concur

## II G. The Quality of Facilities and Equipment

Self Study: Satisfactory

Review Team: Concur

## Section Three – Indicators of Program Productivity

### III. Summary Findings of Program's Overall Quality

Self Study: Below Average

Review Team: Concur

#### III A. Enrollment in Program for Past 5 Years

Self Study: Very Weak

Review Team: Concur

#### III B. Degrees Awarded Over the Past 5 Years

Self Study: Very Weak

Review Team: Concur

### III C. Comparison with CSU and USG Programs

Self Study: Very Weak

Review Team: Very Weak

### III D. Program Retention Rate

Self Study: Very Weak

Review Team: Concur

### III E. Student Learning Indicators

Self Study: Satisfactory

Review Team: Concur

### III F. Graduation Rate of Program

Self Study: Satisfactory

Review Team: Concur

### III G. Cost Effectiveness of Instructional Delivery

Self Study: Above Average

Review team: Concur

## Section Four – Program Viability

### IV A. Summary Findings of Program's Viability

**Self Study: Satisfactory**

**Review Team: Concur**

**IV B. Summary Findings of Program's Improvement Plan**

**Self Study: Below Average**

**Review Team: Concur**