Speech Communication Department
Update on Action Recommendations
2010

Twelve action-recommendations stemmed from the 2007 program review of the Department of Speech Communication. Following is a progress report associated with each action recommendation. Recommendations are placed in prioritized order.

1. **Action Recommendation:** Consider the pros and cons of (1) adding another full-time faculty member, or (2) adding an assistant debate coach who can also teach some sections of public speaking to free the two current full-time faculty to teach other courses, or (3) maintaining the department with two-full-time faculty.

2008 Update: (In progress) This year we had informal conversations with the dean of the College of Arts and Science about the pros and cons of adding another full-time faculty. In fact, the dean requested a new position for the department in the area of organizational communication, though funding is not likely. As a department, we do not feel an immediate rush to hire another faculty. While our workload and course enrollments are high, we function very well interpersonally.

2009 Update: **(In progress)** Our circumstances have drastically changed. Dr. Jeanne Flora is currently on leave and we managing the teaching workload with two adjunct professors. Unfortunately, there is only one person filling three staff positions (Department Chair, Director of Forensics, and Debate Team Coach). If Dr. Flora elects to return, then we would simply revert to our original set-up. However, if she does not, then a more permanent solution is warranted.

2010 Update: (In progress) Dr. Flora's leave of absence has been extended for another year. Josh Martin was hired as Debate Coach last year and his services will be retained for the foreseeable future. The adjunct positions will be offered once again until a final decision is reached in February, 2011.

2. **Action Recommendation:** Encourage the office of admissions to capitalize on the success of our debate program when marketing the university to new students.

2008 Update: (In progress) We have more consciously forwarded information about debate team results to the office of admissions this year. The alumni office has also contacted us about holding an alumni reception in conjunction with a debate tournament.

2009 Update: **(In progress)** The Office of Admissions is consistently updated with the success of our debate team. The several alumni have voiced interest in becoming involved with our program. In line with this, we are currently developing a Centennial Celebration for Speech and Debate at the University of La Verne in Spring 2012.

2010 Update: (In progress) The Debate Team is sponsoring the first La Verne Summer Debate Camp from July 19 – 25, 2010, marketed to potential La Verne students. Planning has started in earnest for the University of La Verne Speech and Debate Centennial.

3. **Action Recommendation:** Develop a workshop on career and graduate school planning to be offered in the years that SPCM 110 is not offered.

2008 Update: (In progress) The SPCM 110 course was offered this year. Thus we plan to offer the workshop in Spring 2009 when SPCM will not be offered.

2009 Update: **(In progress)** In lieu of a general workshop, we opted to hold individualized planning sessions. This was considerably more optimal given the specificity required for each student. Scheduling was uneven and difficult to manage, but the sessions were successful. With greater numbers expected, will revisit the need for a workshop in Spring 2011.

2010 Update: (In progress) SPCM 110 was taught by adjunct faculty in Spring 2010. Though the faculty advised the students with graduate studies and career information, the extent of their exposure was still uneven in contrast to previous years. As a result, the individualized planning sessions were held once again with similar success. The workshop will once again be postponed for Spring 2013.

4. **Action Recommendation:** Revise Department of Speech Communication brochures, website, and admissions material in order to reflect current information and facts about the major and debate team.

2008 Update: (Not completed)

2009 Update: **(In progress)** The departmental website has been completely updated. Since we were given complete access to the website, all future changes will be completed immediately. The departmental brochures have not been updated as of yet, and will reflect the changes suggested at the Fall 2009 Arts and Sciences Chairs' Retreat.

2010 Update: (In progress) The departmental website is updated regularly. However, with the potential for significant changes within the structure of the department, the creation of a new brochure and accompanying paraphernalia must be delayed until the situation has been settled.

5. **Action Recommendation:** Develop a more formal way of assessing skill exercises in the interpersonal communication class.

2008 Update: (In progress) We will be working on this goal during the summer and fall of 2008.

2009 Update: **(Completed)** Skill exercise assessment was developed and implemented in Fall 2008.

6**. Action Recommendation:** Develop a new course, SPCM 490: Special Topics in Speech Communication, that, when taught on occasion, will provide for another upper division major course offering. Offering this course will be dependent on staffing and adjunct faculty funds, given that an adjunct faculty may need to teach a lower division course to free a full-time faculty to teach SPCM 490.

2008 Update: (Completed) SPCM 490: Special Topics in Speech Communication has been developed and approved by the Curriculum Committee. The course has been offered one time since the program review. We currently have no plans to offer the course in the 2008-2009 academic year, but may potentially teach it the following year.

7. Action Recommendation: Incorporate the services of ULV's Career Development and Placement Center in the SPCM 110 class and the career/graduate school workshop (either in the form of a guest presentation or accessing resource material).

2008 Update: (Completed) The Career Development and Placement Center offered resource material and a presentation in the SPCM 110 course this spring. We will continue to call upon their resources for the career workshop in Spring 2009.

8. **Action Recommendation:** Begin videotaping senior project presentations and saving the DVDs in the event that ULV needs a way to assess authentic student oral presentations for assessment purposes.

2008 Update: (In progress) We will record the 2008 senior project presentation for the first time next week.

2009 Update: **(Completed)** The 2008 and 2009 senior project presentations were recorded on DVD. Subsequent presentations will be similarly recorded.

9. **Action Recommendation:** Revise senior project presentation rubric.

2008 Update: (Not completed)

2009 Update: **(Completed)** The senior project presentation rubric was successfully revised and utilized during the Spring 2009 presentations.

10. Action Recommendation: Develop a handout of common corrections related to APA format to improve mastery of APA format. Distribute handout and discuss material not only in the senior project class, but also in other upper division classes in the major where students write research papers using APA format, namely SPCM 452 and SPCM 410.

2008 Update: (Completed) We developed more extensive instructional material related to APA format and emphasized this material heavily in the senior project course as well

as in SPCM 410. We plan to incorporate this material in SPCM 452 when it is offered again in fall 2009.

2009 Update: **(Completed)** The APA instructional material has been successfully incorporated in SPCM 499, SPCM 410 and SPCM 452.

11. Action Recommendation: Require students to turn in senior projects, as well as research papers in SPCM 452 and 410, in scaffold format, so professors can detect major writing and APA problems in a small section of the project, make comments, and then allow students to make revisions and complete the rest of the senior project based on the comments.

2008 Update: (Completed) Students in SPCM 410 and SPCM 499 (senior project) turned in scaffold versions of their final projects and received feedback in time to affect the rewriting of their projects.

12. **Action Recommendation:** Develop a peer-mentoring program for the debate team to develop the skills of new members and maintain a sense of connectedness amidst an increasingly large team.

2008 Update: (Completed) We incorporated a peer-mentoring program for the 2007-2008 year. Informal feedback was very positive. We plan to continue the program for 2008-2009.