

# **Administrative and Educational Support Report**

**College of Social & Behavioral Sciences**

**Annual Action Plan  
Annual Assessment Report**

**June 2004 – May 2005**



## Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2004–May 31, 2005

Unit: **College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**UTPA Mission:** The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community.

Division: **Academic Affairs**

Unit Head: **Dr. George P. Avellano**

**Unit Mission:** Our mission is to teach the body of knowledge and the critical-thinking skills of the social sciences; to add to this base of knowledge and skills through high-quality research; and to utilize the knowledge and skills in service to our local and professional communities. We will accomplish this mission with:

- A. Excellence of **teaching** that utilizes pedagogically sound teaching techniques, that is based on the principles of academic freedom, and that helps our students to become committed to life-long learning, critical thinking, social involvement, and dealing ethically and empathetically with others.
- B. **Scholarship** that promotes collaboration in the discovery, testing, and dissemination of knowledge in our profession and that can improve the social conditions of our society, our region, the global community.
- C. **Service** based on principles of collegial decision making that contributes to the well being our university, our respective professions, and our regional, national, and international communities.

**Unit Goal:** Increase academic and co-curricular opportunities for new undergraduates and graduate students

**Link to UTPA Goal(s):**  
1: Ensure undergraduate student access and success  
2: Enhance graduate education and research

Annual Action Plan, June 1, 2004–May 31, 2005

Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective)	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY05
Approval of learning community courses (1)	2	Design in each CoSBS department at least one new approved learning community class by May, 2005.	<p>Ask each department, excluding Military Science, to design at least one learning community class, but encourage participation by Military Science. In the case of the MPA Program, design paired/sequenced graduate classes.</p> <p>Obtain report from each department proposing the design of their learning community or paired/sequenced graduate classes.</p> <p>Obtain approval by administration of learning community and paired/sequenced graduate classes.</p>	See if each CoSBS department has at least one new approved learning community class or a paired sequence of beginning graduate classes by May, 2005.	None
Growth of extra- and co-curricula activities (2)	2, 4	Increase by at least 5 percent the number of extra- and co-curricular activities by May 2005.	Chairs to be asked to report the number of extra- and co-curricular activities that were held for new students during the	The total number of extra- and co-curricular activities for all departments will be compared between the 2003-2004 and	None

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			<p>2003-04 academic year.</p> <p>Chairs asked to submit list of extra- and co-curricular activities to be organized by their respective departments for freshmen for 2004-05 academic year.</p> <p>Chairs asked to submit the list of extra- and co-curricular activities that were organized by their respective departments during Fall 2004 and to be organized during Spring 2004.</p> <p>The total number of extra- and co-curricular activities for each department and overall in the College in 2003-04 will be compared with that in 2004-05.</p>	2004-2005 academic years.	

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Approval of freshman or graduate seminars (3)	2, 4	Design in each department a freshman seminar or credit/non-credit graduate seminar.	<p>Departments asked to design a freshman seminar or credit/non-credit graduate seminar. Participation by ROTC cadets to be encouraged.</p> <p>Departments asked to submit progress reports on the design of a freshman seminar or credit/non-credit graduate seminar.</p> <p>Obtain official approval for the design of a freshman or credit/non-credit graduate seminar for classes to be offered by 2005-06.</p> <p>Departments asked to submit a final report on their department's design of an approved freshman or credit/non-credit graduate seminar.</p>	See if an approved freshman or credit/non-credit graduate seminar is designed by each CoSBS department by May, 2005.	None



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Approval of learning community courses	2	Design in each CoSBS department at least one new approved learning community class by May 2005.	See if each CoSBS department has at least one new approved learning community class or a paired sequence of beginning graduate classes by May, 2005.	Learning Community courses were considered for the departments of Criminal Justice, Political Science, Psychology and Anthropology, and Sociology.	<p>Learning communities were established between the Sociology and Political Science departments and the History and Philosophy department in fall 2004. The POLS/ HIST pairing was continued in spring 2005.</p> <p>Further discussion about learning community classes is scheduled by the dean in the fall.</p>
Growth of extra- and co-curricula activities	2, 4	Increase by at least 5 percent the number of extra- and co-curricular activities by May, 2005.	The total number of extra- and co-curricular activities for all departments will be compared between the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 academic years.	Although the college did not collect the data for this expected outcome, the following activities occurred during the year: The Criminal Justice Student Association was reorganized and the number of students involved in the organization increased. Also, more students participated	All department chairs were encouraged to seek internships.

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				<p>in internship and volunteer services in criminal justice agencies.</p> <p>The Political Science Association held forums relating to the 2004 elections.</p> <p>A chapter of the international sociology honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta, was formed.</p> <p>The Public Administration Program began an initiative with regional governments to increase the number of internships. In addition, the Program initiated cooperative scheduling and faculty exchanges with the Department of Political Science and for a course to be offered by the College of Business</p>	

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Approval of freshman or graduate seminars	2, 4	Design in each department a freshman seminar or credit/non-credit graduate seminar.	See if an approved freshman or credit/non-credit graduate seminar is designed by each CoSBS department by May, 2005.	<p>Administration.</p> <p>In place of freshman seminars, the Learning Frameworks course, UNIV 1301, was introduced as a requirement for all freshmen in fall 2004.</p> <p>Six sections of UNIV 1301 were offered in CoSBS in the fall and seven sections in the spring. Faculty members representing each discipline in the CoSBS participated in the classes by providing presentations on their fields of study.</p> <p>The need for graduate-level seminars was reviewed.</p>	The college committed funds to sustain the Learning Frameworks course. The results of the Learning Frameworks course are being communicated throughout the college to gather support for additional learning community courses.

**Additional Resources Needed (if any) that were requested for FY06 during the budget cycle:** 4 new faculty lines were requested for Psychology and Anthropology