

## Program Development Plans

Program: Sociology  
 Department: Anthropology and Sociology

Date: 03/28/2007

Strengths:

1. Students feel a strong sense of community within the sociology program.
2. Students are engaged by the program content, and eager to apply what they are learning.
3. Small course sizes almost certainly contribute to this feeling of integration.
4. These students are eager to share their high opinions of the program with others, and would be a great resource in recruiting majors.
5. The faculty is thoughtful and energetic teachers who clearly care about the students' wellbeing. They seek novel and engaging approaches to teaching, and have developed interesting activities for improving their Department and University through professional service, and for continuing their own research agendas.

Recommendation	Strategic Action	Person(s) Responsible	Date of Review
1. Allocate office and classroom space in close proximity to develop and maintain connections between student and faculty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department must define attributes to give priority to sociology in McKee between Larry and Loeitz.</li> <li>- Investigate sociology priority for McKee classrooms.</li> <li>- Priority for major courses – upper level (test case).</li> </ul>	Larry, John, AJ, Keith	Fall (Nov, Dec 2007)
2. Resolution relationship with Cherokee Studies; increase degree of integration or sever the relationship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beth proposing options will talk with Kyle – postpone action until Beth talks with Kyle.</li> <li>- Develop proposal to address this issue along with other related issues.</li> </ul>		Proposal by 6-1-2007
3. Increased visibility and recruitment of majors, specific recommendations include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Creation of a regular speaker series wherein academic sociologists or practitioners in sociologically relevant fields address contemporary issues.</li> <li>b. Presentations by program faculty actively engaged in research in a regular colloquium series for interested students and faculty in other disciplines.</li> <li>c. A panel presentation by WCU Sociology alumni to showcase what one does with a degree in sociology.</li> <li>d. A booth at the annual Valley Ballyhoo to draw the attention of incoming students.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visiting schools – John will submit.</li> <li>- Submit vs. proposal related to sociological issues.</li> <li>- Brown Bag Sciences introduced to showcase faculty research.</li> <li>- Luncheon series has been introduced.</li> <li>- John will work with faculty – develop website to address careers</li> <li>- John will ensure they have about developed research faculty to address Hispanic dispora. Connect socio to regional issues.</li> <li>- Develop research agenda to study increase in regional Hispanic population.</li> <li>- Showcase alums on website.</li> </ul>	John with cooperation of faculty	(Dec.) Fall 2007
4. Curriculum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Remove elective courses that are no longer taught and replace with courses in requirement at all levels.</li> <li>b. Provide advising materials that show students how courses might be combined to provide coherent courses of study and to complement their career interests.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beth proposing options will talk with Kyle – postpone action until Beth talks with Kyle.</li> <li>- Develop proposal to address this issue along with other related issues.</li> </ul>		Proposal by 6-1-2007

5. Development of a Master's Degree program: Given current demands on faculty, we do not advocate the development of a graduate program at this time.	- N/A Ok.		
6. Institutionalization of program leadership: The Program Director should be (officially) charged with crafting strategies to improve and grow the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Name official Program Director.</li> <li>- Work on identifying program Director for Sociology.</li> </ul>		Status report by May 15 2007
7. Showcase faculty with regional research agendas, changing demographic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research agenda concerning increase in Hispanic population.</li> <li>- Showcase regular agendas already in existence.</li> </ul>		Spring 2008