

Self-Study Report

Submitted to the Committee of Peers
conducting the Post-Tenure Review, Type A

of

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Cosumnes River College

Los Rios Community College District

Executive Summary

I have held the role of a generalist in both Computer Information Science (CIS) and Business since 2003. I also teach courses in the Networking and Security program to meet the needs of our students. My instructional assignment has changed since my last review as my last self-study as I have not been assigned to teach Business classes since 2007.

I have actively served on CRC's Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) since the 2005/2006 academic year and have thus contributed to implementing CRC's Honor Code.

I served my department as its chairperson during the 2006/2007 academic year.

I have been granted a Type A Sabbatical during the Spring 2010 semester during which I will study information and communication technology adoption in Eastern Europe. I have recently begun to once again do applied research in my field and hope to thereby contribute to the body of knowledge in Information Technology (IT) through presentations at academic conferences and articles in refereed journals.

I continue to spend time and effort promoting our programs to IT students at our feeder high schools. I continue to maintain relationships with industry partners that, through occasional donations of resources and time, allow our department to better meet the needs of our stakeholders.

As a result of changing student demand I no longer teach televised courses. Today most of my teaching load consists of online and hybrid classes though I very much cherish my traditional classes as well and especially enjoyed teaching a night class at CRC's Amador Learning Center.

I. Introduction

As I begin my twelfth year of service to the students and community of Cosumnes River College (CRC) and my ninth year as a member of the Los Rios Community College District's (LRCCD) full-time faculty, I am delighted to deliver to you, the members of my evaluation committee, this Self Study as part of my third post-tenure review and hope that will appropriately illustrate to you my recent contributions to the success of our students.

I very much appreciate the time that you are taking to evaluate my performance, and I look forward to your feedback and suggestions. In the spirit of continuous improvement I continue be most interested in your recommendations about where and how I might further improve my professional endeavors, especially as they pertain to maximizing my instructional effectiveness, research activities and community involvement. I thank you in advance for the time and effort that you will spend on my post-tenure review.

II. Response to Recommendations of Previous Review

While I continue to take to heart all of my colleagues' recommendations from previous reviews, my second post-tenure review did not contain any recommendations for me to address. I do, however, continue to solicit student feedback in each class that I teach, and the resulting suggestions continue to help me improve my curriculum delivery.

III. Review Cycle History

I continue to serve my department as in the role of an IT generalist. In this capacity I support the CIS Department's mission by teaching several sections of CISC 310 – Introduction to Computer Information Science in traditional, online, full-semester, and short-term formats along with online sections of some introductory Networking courses (CISC 355 and CISC 356) and occasional courses in the Networking program (CISN 300 and CISN 301).

My assignment has changed somewhat since over the past three years since the chair of the Business Department vehemently opposes exceptionally qualified faculty who primarily teach in other departments teach Business courses. I very much enjoyed teaching BUS 300 - Introduction to Business for several semesters and found it very enriching to be able to share some of my expertise in Business. The Business Department chair must have forgotten that I helped out his department as an emergency fill-in for a colleague who left after her first year of full-time instruction.

Over the past three years I have taught between four and five different courses in the Fall and Spring semesters along with two to three courses during the Summer session. Since more than eighty percent of my course load now consists of full semester courses, I continue to take advantage of the greater flexibility afforded to me by the semester-long format. I very much enjoyed teaching a class at the Amador Learning Center during the Fall 2008 semester because of the different type of student I encountered there. I occasionally host guest speakers for my students as appropriate.

I have recently begun to enhance some of the learning content in my classes for small-screen devices such as smartphones and MP3 players to help my students more readily access learning materials during their busy lives, and I will continue to look for ways to make content more accessible to my students and thereby improve student learning.

IV. Professional Activities

During the summers of 2007 and 2009 I worked as a consultant at the University of Applied Sciences (Technische Fachhochschule; TFH) Georg Agricola in Bochum, Germany to help their faculty and staff advance their e-learning efforts. In the Summer 2009 semester I also taught Management at the TFH Bochum to a cohort of graduate students pursuing a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering and did so in German, my native language. During my stay I learned more about the German university culture and structure and about the differences between the German and American systems of higher education.

I recently gave a presentation entitled *Meet the Cell Phone Generation: Using 21st Century Communication Technology to Reach and Teach 21st Century Students* at the MERLOT 2009 International Conference in San Jose, CA. The presentation, which challenges faculty to consider moving learning content to small-screen devices, was very well received, and I hope to conduct similar presentations at appropriate conferences in the near future.

I was granted a Type A sabbatical during the Spring 2010 semester during which I will study information and communication technology adoption in the countries of Estonia, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine. I look forward to this opportunity, and I plan to publish the results of my research in refereed academic journals after my return.

I have recently been asked again to review textbooks for publishers, and I plan to do more of this in the future to help me keep current in my assignment.

V. Service

In addition to spending a good amount of time career counseling CIS students I actively serve on CRC's Academic Integrity Committee and volunteer with CRC's Campus Life Ministries' Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach efforts.

I continue to serve our community as a parent volunteer at Jesuit High School, as a volunteer and choir member at St. Paul's Catholic Church in the Florin area and as a member and volunteer for the Sacramento Turnverein in Sacramento.

VI. Efforts Taken to Stay Current

Since I continue to read two daily and two weekly or monthly electronic newsletters from both professional and academic sources related to CIS and Business, my subject matter currency remains very high. I continue to share new industry developments with my students during class and via email, and my students continue to assist me in my research by gathering news articles from industry publications and submitting written summaries to me as part of their assignments.

I was one of the pilot testers of the LRCCD's Desire2Learn Course Management System (D2L) and have used it since. I also continue to develop digital media content and use it in my courses. My students very appreciate these tools because they help them to learn the materials.

My work and travels abroad continue to enhance my appreciation of different cultures and ways of life. This continues to make me a better teacher to my students and more informed collaborator with my colleagues.

VII. Assessment

Most of my students continue to enjoy the convenience and other advantages that my use of technology in and outside of the classroom presents for them. I regularly update my course materials--especially the content of my courses in D2L--and other information about the courses I teach. I continue to maintain my reputation as a tough teacher in whose class students can learn as much as they want to learn but no less than I want them to learn to meet the appropriately high standards. Former students frequently return to take other courses with me because they find the structure of my classes easy for them to learn.

My other strengths include my curiosity about IT. I am always on the lookout for new trends in both industry and education and evaluate how they might benefit my students.

My extensive use of D2L has enabled me to better interact with my students. Because of a recent personal investment in a smartphone, the recent deployment of CRC's campus-wide WiFi, and the presence of wireless access points at my home and in many locations across town I can now connect to the Internet to grade assignments and communicate via email both in and out of the office. This flexibility allows me to stay more connected with my students and colleagues. Furthermore, having my students submit virtually all assignments online demonstrates my commitment to CRC's sustainability efforts.

VIII. Other

I continue to be active in other areas, including those listed below:

A. Student Career Advising

I still find myself spending a good amount of time on career counseling our students. While our counselors do acceptable work with academic advising and referring students to me about recent changes, my regular communications with industry and education partners allow me to better counsel a student toward a particular career path. I enjoy dealing with my students on both a personal and a professional level, and many of my students also use the information on my web site to gain a better knowledge of the field they are about to enter.

B. Community Outreach

I occasionally represent CRC's BFS Division and the programs it offers at college fairs, career weeks, and other events hosted by EGUSD high schools.

IX. Future Directions

While I love working with my CIS students, I would very much like to teach Business courses at CRC again to enrich my teaching assignment. I hope that a change in leadership of the BFS Division will help to make this possible.

As our region's economic climate improves I hope to rebuild some of my relationships with local businesses to find more opportunities for industry collaboration.

For the benefit of our students I will continue to develop and utilize innovative delivery methods, update curriculum, actively participate in CRC's shared governance process, obtain industry input, market our programs both internally and externally, and represent CRC in the community.

X. Attachments

In the spirit of sustainability, please find copies of my current syllabi and class calendars at <http://crc.losrios.edu/~geisslm> .