Self-Study Report

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

of

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for the period of August 2010 to May 2013

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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 continue to occasionally teach courses in the Networking and Security and the Healthcare Information Technology programs to meet the needs of the Business & Family Science Area, CRC and our students. My instructional assignment has changed somewhat since my last self-study, and I am grateful for the opportunity to teach Business classes again over the past two years.

After having actively served on CRC's Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) from its inception during the 2005/2006 academic year through the 2010/2011 academic year I re-joined the Distance Education and Information Technology (DEIT) Committee at the beginning of the 2011/2012 academic year. In that capacity, and even prior to re-joining the DEIT Committee, I serve as one of the CRC faculty representatives to the Educational Technology Committee at the District level. As of January 2012 I am also serving as the faculty advisor to the CRC Enactus Club (former CRC SIFE Club) and am enjoying my new challenge as a teacher by supporting my students in planning and executing projects that benefit our community.

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.

Today most of my teaching load consists of online classes though I very much cherish my traditional classes as well. I continue to spend substantial time and effort on integrating digital media into my instruction, especially as the latter relates to my online classes, and continue to share my experiences at local workshops and national conferences.

I look forward to transitioning my teaching assignment to the Business Department over the next several semesters and am ready to meet the new challenges that will this career move will bring for me.
I. Introduction

As I begin my fifteenth year of service to the students and community of Cosumnes River College (CRC), and my sixteenth 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 fourth post-tenure review and hope once again that it 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. In the spirit of continuous improvement I continue to 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, scholarly activities and community involvement. I thank you in advance for the time and effort that you will spend on this post-tenure review, and I look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

II. Response to Recommendations of Previous Review

While I continue to take to heart all of my colleagues’ recommendations from previous reviews, my previous 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 course delivery techniques.

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), occasional courses in the Networking and Security program (CISN 300 and CISN 301), and the HCIT 110 course for the Healthcare Information Technology program. I also very much appreciate the opportunity granted to me by the Business Department to once again teach a BUS 300 – Introduction to Business class during the past two Spring semesters, and I am enjoying the professional challenge of teaching BUS 354 – Students in Free Enterprise for the first time during the Fall 2012 semester.

Over the past three years I have taught between four and five different courses in the Fall and Spring semesters along with one or two different 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 by spending time to create and enhance instructional materials in digital media format. In addition, once my students have mastered the level of skill I require of them I enjoy challenging them to think critically about the current and future impacts of Information Technology on our society, which is what they will have to do throughout both their personal lives and their professional careers. On that note I have been thinking about offering an Honors version of CISC 310 and plan to further pursue this opportunity when CRC’s fiscal situation improves.

I continue to enhance the learning content that I produce for 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 continually look for ways to make content more accessible to my students and thereby improve student learning.

In January 2012 I was asked to take on the position of faculty advisor to the CRC Enactus Club, and during the Spring 2012 semester I put many hours of effort into not only helping the Club complete the projects to which it had committed before my arrival, but also into preparing for and traveling to both the regional and the national competitions. The CRC SIFE Competition Team’s success at the regional level helps to illustrate that the skills and experience that I have developed and fine-tuned throughout my career as a teacher continue to enable me to draw the best out of the diverse students we have the pleasure to serve.

IV. Professional Activities

Over the past three years, and following my Type A Sabbatical during the Spring 2010 semester, I have increased the level of my professional activities. I continue to stay in touch with the University of Applied Sciences (Technische Fachhochschule; TFH) Georg Agricola in Bochum, Germany, and I am currently in negotiations with them to once again teach a Business Administration course to a cohort of graduate students pursuing a Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. I continue to benefit from my relationship with the TFH Bochum since it provides me with insight into the workings of another academic institution.

In June 2010 I gave a presentation entitled Learning More with Less: Future Expectations of Information Technology Tools at the Online Teaching Conference 2010 in San Diego, CA. Through my presentation I encouraged attendees to move their learning materials to cloud-based services and thereby make such content more universally available and more easily accessible.

In June 2012 I gave a virtual presentation entitled Trusting the Cloud - Possibilities and Pitfalls of Internet-based Storage and Services at the Online Teaching Conference 2012 in San Jose, CA.
In this presentation I outlined the benefits of Cloud-based applications (SaaS) and services (storage, backup, etc.) in academic environments.

In June 2012 I also attended the Cloud Leadership Forum in Santa Clara, CA to learn about the various ways to implement Cloud Computing from some of the preeminent industry experts.

In September 2012 I attended the *Entrepreneurship in Education - Launch It! Grow It! Move It! Conference* in Fresno, CA to learn more about the field of Entrepreneurship and how to develop Entrepreneurship courses and programs at the community college level.

V. Service

In addition to spending a significant amount of time career counseling CIS students I actively serve CRC as a member of CRC's DEIT Committee, as a faculty representative to the LRCCD’s Educational Technology Committee, and as faculty advisor to the CRC Enactus Club (formerly CRC SIFE Club).

After serving since 2010 as a member of both the Computer Science and Information Systems Discipline Input Groups (DIGs) for the statewide Course Identification Number (C-ID) System, which was created to develop and review transfer-level curriculum that will allow community college students greater flexibility and mobility when selecting a California State University campus to which to transfer, I was appointed Chair of the Information Systems Faculty Discipline Review Group (FDRG) in July 2012. The group is in the process of finalizing the Transfer Model Curriculum for Information Systems.

I have also recently had my name forwarded to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges to serve as a faculty member on visiting teams. I look forward to serving the Commission in this capacity and to learning more about how other community colleges provide educational experiences to their students.

I continue to serve my community as a volunteer and choir member at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in the Florin area, as a member and volunteer for the Sacramento Turn Verein German Club, and more recently as the volunteer President and Artistic Director for the non-profit STV Alpentänzer Schuhplattler dance troupe which performs Austrian and Bavarian folk dances, accompanied by a live band, throughout Northern California.
VI. Efforts Taken to Stay Current

Since I continue to read two daily and several weekly and monthly electronic newsletters from both professional and academic sources related to CIS and Business, my subject matter currency in both fields remains very high. I continue to share new industry developments with my students in class, via email and through news announcements in eLearning (D2L), 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.

Each time I update the textbook or the curriculum I develop new digital media content for use in my courses. While the development of such materials is very time-consuming, my students very much appreciate the availability of these learning tools because they help them to learn the subject matter.

My work and travels beyond California continue to enhance my appreciation of different cultures and ways of life. My Type A Sabbatical during the Spring 2010 semester allowed me to learn more about the cultures and languages of our students with Eastern European heritage, and I enjoy making connections with especially those students at a new level. As of late I have spent more time on the East Coast and have thus become more familiar with the various ways of life that can be found in that part of our country. These experiences continue to make me a better teacher to my students and a more informed collaborator with my colleagues.

VII. Assessment

Most of my students continue to enjoy the convenience and other advantages which 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 my 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 continued curiosity about IT and Business. I keep current on new trends in both industry and education and constantly evaluate how our students and CRC might benefit from knowing more about these developments.

My extensive use of D2L has enabled me to better interact with both my online and on-campus students, and for the past three years I have also used mobile communication technology to serve
my students and colleagues well beyond my office hours. In addition, I consider my classes to be among the most sustainable at CRC since my students submit virtually all assignments online.

**VIII. Other**

I continue to be active in other areas both on and off campus, including those listed below:

**A. Student Career Advising**

I continue to find myself spending a significant 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 in our curriculum, my regular communications with industry and education partners allow me to better counsel students toward a career path that will likely best suit them. I continue to 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 continue to occasionally represent CRC's BFS Division and the programs we offer at college fairs, career weeks, and other events hosted by EGUSD high schools.

**IX. Future Directions**

While I very much continue to enjoy working with my CIS students, I am no less serious about having my teaching assignment moved to the Business Department over the next several semesters as has been offered to me by both the Dean of Business & Family Science and the Chair of the Business Department. I have considered this mid-career transition for a long time, and I hope to be able to make the move to Business sooner rather than later. I am more than able and qualified to teach a variety of courses in the areas of Business, Management and Marketing to help the Business Department achieve its mission, and I will be ready to take on increased responsibility in the Business Department when called upon. Until such time when the Business Department on our campus or another Business Department elsewhere can consistently and permanently offer me the lion share of my teaching load, however, I will remain firmly committed to meeting or exceeding my obligations to my CIS colleagues and students.

I have rebuilt some of my existing relationships with local businesses and forged new ones to develop more opportunities for industry collaboration. Through my engagement with the CRC Enactus Club I regularly interface with business leaders in the Elk Grove area and beyond.
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://web.crc.losrios.edu/geisslm. Thank you.