Security Studies, Department of

Continuously Improve Educational Content/Delivery for Students

Goal Description:

Continuously improve educational content and delivery of departmental courses and programs in order to enhance the student experience.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS –

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Enhance Student Understanding of Security Studies Content

Learning Objective Description:

Enhance student understanding and assimilation of knowledge in the security studies field.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Student Success in Assimilating Knowledge

Indicator Description:

Student grades in coursework.

Criterion Description:

Attainment of at least a B grade in coursework by at least 50% of students.

Findings Description:

During AY 2016-17, over 50% of students in the department's programs achieved a grade of B or better.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Strengthen Students' Analytical Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Strengthen students' analytical skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Student Success in Developing Analytical Skills

Indicator Description:

Student success in developing analytical skills.

Criterion Description:

Attainment of at least a B in course grades by at least 50% of students.

Findings Description:

During AY 2016-17, over 50% of students demonstrated success in developing analytical skills by achieving a grade of B or better in all of their coursework.

Enhance Faculty Development, Service, and Contributions

Goal Description:

Enhance faculty development, service, and contributions via provision of support, funding, and encouragement of scholarly activities and university service.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS –

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Faculty Research and Publication

Performance Objective Description:

Support faculty research and publication in order to further scholarship in the security studies discipline.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Faculty Research and Publication

KPI Description:

Faculty participation in one or more academic conferences per year and/or publication of one paper in an industry publication or academic peer-review journal.

Results Description:

Faculty produced 10 peer-reviewed or industry publications and 6 academic conference presentations.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Faculty Service to the University

Performance Objective Description:

Support faculty service to the university including service on departmental, college, and university-wide committees.

Ensuring Faculty Service

KPI Description:

Ensuring Continued Faculty Service to the University

Results Description:

In the 2016-17 AY, all faculty have been serving in departmental committees and several faculty members have been serving either in college-wide or university-wide committees. Other faculty members have also served on search committees for university-wide positions.

Faculty Service to the University

KPI Description:

Faculty participation in at least one departmental, college-wide, and/or university-wide committee per year.

Results Description:

In the 2016-17 AY, all faculty have been serving in departmental committees and several faculty members have been serving either in college-wide or university-wide committees. Other faculty members have also served on search committees for university-wide positions.

Each faculty member is serving on at least one committee.

Expand Departmental Footprint within the College

Goal Description:

Expand departmental footprint within the College through expanding existing offerings and programs as well as developing new ones.

Develop New Academic Programs

Performance Objective Description:

Develop new degree programs, certificate programs, and/or concentration areas as relevant, subject to funding and administrative approval.

Develop New Academic Programs

KPI Description:

Develop new academic programs as needed and subject to administrative and funding needs and opportunities.

Results Description:

During 2016-17, the Department completely revamped the existing MS in Homeland Security Studies in terms of both the order of courses as well as the fact that the division between the online program and the face to face program was removed. Moreover, the program was shifted (with a start in the fall of 2017) to The Woodlands Center in order to make the face to face program more accessible to professionals in the homeland security field living and working in the greater Houston area.

The initial planning was also begun to create a new online Bachelor's degree program in homeland security studies.

Development of Online BS HSS

Action Description:

In 2016-17, the Department began to develop a BS in HSS that will enable the department to expand and offer more educational options for students.

Expand Departmental Offerings in Existing Programs

Performance Objective Description:

Expand departmental course offerings and opportunities for students in existing programs.

Develop New Academic Programs

KPI Description:

Develop new academic programs as needed and subject to administrative and funding needs and opportunities.

Results Description:

During 2016-17, the Department completely revamped the existing MS in Homeland Security Studies in terms of both the order of courses as well as the fact that the division between the online program and the face to face program was removed. Moreover, the program was shifted (with a start in the fall of 2017) to The Woodlands Center in order to make the face to face program more accessible to professionals in the homeland security field living and working in the greater Houston area.

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Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify) :
In the coming academic year (2016-7), we will continue to build on our achievements during this past year (2015-6). We will continue to improve in the same key areas as before.

Stronger Faculty. We still need more faculty, particularly at the Associate and full Professor levels, to help support new programs and to reduce our dependence on outside departments. We also have gaps that we will need to fill using adjuncts with both serious academic qualifications and relevant practitioner or policymaker experience.

Expanded Offerings. We will continue to develop new courses and new degree programs, both to meet the needs of our existing students and to reach new student populations. In the short term, we will develop new graduate degree or certificate programs (face-to-face, online, and/or hybrid) for mid-career professionals centered around homeland security issues like energy or biomedical security. In the longer run, we will continue to lay the foundation for the country's first true homeland security doctoral program.

Greater Self-Sufficiency. We have made great strides, but the Department still needs to mature and take on more responsibility within the College. As student enrollments grow in our programs, undergraduate and graduate, face-to-face and online, we will become increasingly self-sufficient and able to contribute in a more significant way to the mission of the College and University.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:
We will continue to work to advance our faculty and ensure that tenure-track faculty complete the requirements for eligibility for tenure and ensure that they continue to grow and develop as scholars, teachers, and providers of service to the university and the practitioner community.

We will continue to look to expand offerings, including the online BS in Homeland Security Studies being currently developed.

The department will continue to work towards self-sufficiency via requests to be granted additional tenure-track faculty lines, a dedicated academic advisor, and more administrative support staff.

PCI Department of Security Studies

Closing Summary:
We will continue to work to advance our faculty and ensure that tenure-track faculty complete the requirements for eligibility for tenure and ensure that they continue to grow and develop as scholars, teachers, and providers of service to the university and the practitioner community.

We will continue to look to expand offerings, including the online BS in Homeland Security Studies being currently developed.

The department will continue to work towards self-sufficiency via requests to be granted additional tenure-track faculty lines, a dedicated academic advisor, and more administrative support staff.