BA Native Studies Leadership Prioritization Feedback

The Native Studies Leadership program would first like to thank the scoring committee for their time and efforts in putting together our report. The feedback given was useful and thoughtful. As a new department lead, I find the information presented to be very useful.

1. The first suggestion for improvement focused on Criterion 4, Quality of Program Inputs/Resources & Processes. The purpose of Criterion 4 is for the program to describe the quality of resources and processes. The Scoring Committee noted that the Native Studies Leadership assessment and student completion rates were not shared. They recommend the program collect and report retention and graduation rates, and articulate the measures for time of completion. This will allow the institution to recognize there is smooth movement through the program for students. In order to successfully fulfill this suggestion, the NSL department plans to ensure that student data is collected accordingly. As the department chair, I plan to transfer any student retention data from the former Coast Salish Institute Director and compile all NSL data in one central location. This will allow me to review and analyze all NSL data and present it to the institution in a meaningful way. One detail that wasn’t made clear in the Scoring Committee feedback comments was the point person for presenting NSL data once it is compiled.
2. The second suggestion for improvement focused on Criterion 5, Quality of Program Outputs. The purpose of this criterion was for the department to showcase or highlight its success in achieving goals. The Scoring Committee noted the NSL program is fairly new and this is a prime point to measure and describe student achievements in meeting program outcomes. The committee recommended the department collect narrative reports showcasing how students are meeting program outcomes and include these narratives into the annual program assessment. In order to successfully fulfill this suggestion, the NSL faculty will need to record and submit quarterly narratives for each student in the NSL program. For each NSL class, the students are required to present on a topic relating to the class. The NSL faculty each designed their own course rubric for these presentations in order to grade student progress. If we include the appropriate program outcome to this rubric and allow the faculty to make notes of how the student meets the program outcome, which would allow for them to submit their narratives each quarter. As the department chair, I will distinguish which narratives to include in our annual program assessment.
3. The third suggestion for improvement focused on Criterion 7 and 8. Criterion 7 and 8 are both centered on program costs and revenues. The Scoring Committee noted that the NSL program budget is not separated from the Coast Salish Institute budget and this doesn’t allow for an examination of program expenditures. In order to successfully fulfill this suggestion, the NSL departmental budget will need to be separated from the Coast Salish Institute budget and will be overseen by the department chair. The process of creating a new NSL budget and moving money into that budget has already begun. On Friday October 3, Barbra Roberts held a Title III meeting. This issue was brought up by Sharon Kinley and addressed by Barbra.