

Initiative Report for Social Science 2009-10

Geography/GIS 1.0 FTE Faculty Position

Summary:

We ask that a 1.0 position in geography/GIS be funded to allow a comprehensive geography program at Lane. Understanding geographic concepts encourage environmental sustainability and preparedness for the resulting local/global cultural responses. A comprehensive geography/GIS program directly addresses Lanes core abilities and outcomes.

Description

We ask that a position in geography/GIS be funded. Currently we have a temporary faculty funded by the part-time fund and money from a National Science Foundation grant ending in June 2009. This request is to replace a faculty position that was lost 4 years ago and establish a stable staffing pattern to continue building a Geographic Information Systems Program for CTE. A strong fledging GIS curriculum exists and a CTE Program template is complete and in the wings. Students more than ever need geographic knowledge and skills combined with advanced technology to enter the workforce. Understanding geographic concepts encourages environmental sustainability through natural and human resource management on local to global scales. A comprehensive geography program directly addresses Lane's core abilities and outcomes:

- Promoting sustainability of resources and environment
- Preparing students for life in a global community
- Gaining literacy in geospatial technology.
- Promoting a better understanding of self, society and environment
- Cultivating habit of mind and heart essential to lifelong learning
- Improving communication, critical thinking and problem solving abilities
- Increasing cultural competence

Questions and Answers

How is the initiative linked to the Unit Plans most recently submitted?

1. **How does it continue the achievement of those goals?**
2. **If this is a continuation of an initiative started last year, make sure that relationship is clear.**

How is this initiative linked to the efficiencies and productivities plans you had last year?

1. **How does it continue the achievement of these plans?**

2. If this is a continuation of an efficiency or productivity plan started last year, make sure that relationship is clear.

The Geography/GIS position has been an annual proposal since the initiation of unit planning in 2003. The goal of this initiative is to sustain strong curriculum in Geography and closely linked GIS technology education.

Through developing curriculum for current geographic problems; building alliances with community members and pursuing grant opportunities.

We maintain an Advisory Committee for the GIS portion of the discipline. Geography connects with other NSF funded colleges and other professional geographic organizations.

Describe the resources needed:

This request is to replace the 0.5 FTE faculty position lost 5 years ago and add 0.5 from general funds.

Geography 1.0 FTE Position

Staffing

- Salary (\$47,000-\$59,000)
- OPE (\$26226-\$32922)

Funding: General Fund

What specific measurable program outcomes do you expect to achieve with this initiative? The outcomes should be specific enough to be measurable. Also, outline the method that will be used to determine the results.

- Gain expertise in geospatial technology, specifically Geographic Information Science (GIS)
- Efficient and timely curricular design for AAOT and direct transfers
- Assist students in engagement in new career opportunities.
- Assist students in successfully fulfilling their diversity requirement in Social Science
- Provide critical thinking and problem solving skills around sustainability and cultural response
- Increase understanding of the relationships between self, community, and a sustainable environment.

We will measure the outcomes by course offerings, student retention, and the usage of the GIS lab sections offering in the center lab, built partially with grant funds.

The interdisciplinary GIS project curriculum housed in Geography will not have faculty in any part of the college with advanced background in GIS technologies to maintain the

current level GIS services nor will we have the expertise to expand to a higher level of career opportunities for students.

Department Priority:

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Unit Resources:

Funding Request: Carl Perkins

Funding Request: Curriculum Development

Funding Request: Technology Fee