Faculty Staffing Narrative Summary: Social Sciences, History

# Position

The Social Sciences Department is requesting a new Historian for the Santa Rosa campus. This position is ranked #1 in our 2015 PRPP. We have not hired a FT Historian since 2005.

# Faculty

Currently we have five FT Historians. One Historian has 45% release time to serve as Department Chair, another will be teaching in London for the Fall of 2016 and two others are slated for sabbaticals in 2017. Finally, two of our Historians are within retirement age and one of them intends to start reducing his load by 2017. Analysis of PRPP data in section 2.3b shows that FT Historians teach only 41.8% of our sections. Our FT/PT ratio is 5:18. This current semester, 25 of the 59 History courses are taught by FT Historians.

 Our department has a dedicated group of PT Historians. Of our 18 Adjuncts, 11 of them are within retirement age, and two have had extended medical leaves in the past year. Additionally the majority of our Adjuncts have a 60% load. We did add three adjuncts to our History pool in the Fall of 2014, but we still need to add more sections. Yet, while many Adjuncts do a wonderful job teaching our students, we need an additional FT Historian. Another FT Historian will be able to teach additional online and f2f sections, evaluate colleagues, serve on College wide committees, assess SLOs, update curriculum, and contribute to the overall development and direction of the Department.

# Instructional Impact

This new Historian will teach a number of courses, including two of our core survey History courses, History 17.1 (US History to 1877) & History 17.2 (US History since 1877). The vast majority of History classes, both online and f2f, fill before open enrollment ends. Analysis of PRPP section 5.2b data shows that our average class size is 37.6 and section 5.2a shows that our enrollment efficiency rate is 104.5%. With an additional FT instructor we could offer 5 more sections and current student demand would insure that they would fill.

# District and Departmental Need and Goals

This position is a priority because our classes are so impacted and as pointed out above, many of our FT Historians will be away on a study group or sabbatical in the next 2 years, and retirements are imminent. All of the courses in the Social Sciences Department are UC/CSU transferable, promote critical thinking, and are imperative in promoting good citizenry. Additionally our courses include topics as diverse as the History of Mexico, the History of the Middle East, and
Women’s History courses. Similarly, many of our courses are part of the Pathways, Umoja, and Weekend College programs. Our courses support the College’s goals about student success, academic excellence, and serving diverse communities. With an additional FT Historian, we can offer more sections and in turn serve more students.

All of the Course Outlines of Record in History are currently up to date, and all courses have at least two SLOs assessed. The Department has a plan in place to make sure that all SLOs will be assessed on a 6 year cycle. Currently, the Department is up to date with evaluations, but next semester we will have FT faculty go over the expected limit of 3 evaluations, because we have so many adjuncts teaching our courses. If we do not get this position, we will have to hire more adjuncts, which means more evaluations, less evaluators, fewer SLO assessments, and most importantly decreased leadership in our Department.

As stated earlier, all of our History courses are UC/CSU transferable. They fulfill Area D, E, and G for the College’s GE requirements. And along with POLS 1, only History courses 17.1, 17.2, 18.1, 18.2, and 21 fulfill Area F, the American Institutions Requirement. Similarly for CSU, our History courses fulfill Area D for their General Education Breadth Requirements. And again, along with POLS 1, only History courses fulfil CSU’s Graduation Requirement in US History, Constitution, and American Ideals. Finally, History courses fulfill IGETC Area 4 requirements. Our History Major prepares very successful transfer students and these courses are also components of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Major. Close to 400 students graduate with the SBS major every year. Because of these requirements, strongly preparing our students for transfer, and a commitment to excellent teaching, our enrollments are increasing and we need to offer more History sections. Another FT Historian is needed.