

Peer Team Report
On
Physical Education and Athletics

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Fall 2007

Part I. CURRICULUM

Findings:

The Physical Education and Athletics division offers students a wide variety of sports and activities in areas of Adaptive (1 course listed in the 2007-8 catalog) and Activity (31 courses listed in the 2007-8 catalog) Physical Education, Athletic Training (5 courses listed in the 2007-8 catalog), Dance (24 courses listed in the 2007-8 catalog), Health Education (3 courses listed in the 2007-8 catalog) and Recreational Leadership (2 courses listed in the 2007-8 catalog). The Intramural Athletics Program offers basketball and volleyball technique and skill training. The Intercollegiate Athletics Program covers baseball, men's and women's basketball, cross country, football, women's tennis, women's soccer, women's and men's golf, women's softball, track and women's volleyball. The Physical Education and Athletics division also offers 11 professional preparation courses in the 2007-2008 college catalog.

The peer team found that, of the competitive sports offered in the Antelope Valley high school districts, all but two were offered by the Physical Education and Athletics division. Limitations have been imposed by the present facility size in relation to the number of courses and sections offered and have made the addition of more classes to serve transfer students and the general community impractical until an expansion occurs.

AP&P data from May 2007, provided to the Peer Team by the Program Review coordinator, shows 18 of the division's 84 courses need to be updated in Fall 2007 or those courses will be removed from the 2008-09 catalog. Within the past year, three courses have been reviewed and deemed obsolete.

With respect to diversity, offerings have been designed to attract both male and female participants and are open to all students. Classes for senior citizens, covering health issues, and yoga and dance classes are planned for the time when new facilities will permit more community offerings. It is believed that some students who might participate in classes more regularly are actually restricted by the repeatability limitations imposed in the CORs. Participation is limited to three repeats of any given course offering which can prevent ongoing participation in fitness activities by community members who might otherwise enroll more frequently. The number of sports offerings has been increased from 9 to 14 and there are more new women's sports being offered than men's.

Currency in subject areas appears to be maintained by many faculty members employing new innovative instructional technology. Classes are offered at times most requested by the students surveyed, and weekend and evening sections are popular choices. The dean is actively involved in the Commission on Athletics (COA), an administrative advisory group that oversees athletics programs throughout the state of California.

A detailed analysis of how student support services assist the students of the Physical Education and Athletics division has been provided in the self-study. A full time athletic academic advisor is also available to assist students.

The courses offered by the Physical Education and Athletics division meet several goals of the College Mission statement. Transfer level courses and community enrichment courses are provided in many sports areas. There is great anticipation of expanding these offerings further once additional facilities are available. The Peer Team learned that the Physical Education and Athletics division is ranked in the top 5 AVC divisions in terms of lecture hour equivalents (LHEs) generated, an impressive feat when considering that their courses are not required for graduation.

Recommendations:

1. Continued analysis of the numbers of male and female students enrolling in the class offerings and addition of new sports and or courses designed to attract women to participate.

Part II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Learning Outcomes

Findings:

The division regularly seeks and learns students' opinions of their programs. Student evaluations, gathered at least once a year, generally praise the courses for satisfying their objectives.

The division does not have a systematic method for gathering follow-up data on departing students. Presently informal feedback from individuals, local employers, and former students all confirm the realistic and tangible success of the programs. Peer Team interviews with both faculty and students indicate this as well. The full time faculty ask former students how well their education at AVC prepared them for their current employment. The students, many of whom transfer to the CSU or UC, express complete satisfaction with the skills and education gained at AVC.

Areas of student dissatisfaction center on the lack of space and facilities. This issue is being addressed through active and planned construction.

Learning outcomes include the following:

1. Students in Athletics will be able to identify, comprehend, and distinguish the various rules and regulations applicable to the athletic disciplines in which they participate.
2. Students in Athletics will be able to demonstrate basic competency in athletic activity including both physical and psychological orientation.
3. Students in Athletics will be able to perform and explain proper athletic protocols in dealing with team members and in competitive activities.
4. Students in Athletics will be able to understand and adapt to changes in competitive events and game-plans.

Recommendations:

1. The Physical Education division should continue to monitor the success and effectiveness of the implementation of the described student learning outcomes through a systematic process of collecting student evaluations of courses and programs offered. Faculty should also be encouraged to participate in the analysis and offer revisions to this new methodology of describing learning objectives, if such should be needed.

Part III. PERSONNEL AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The overall ratio of part-time to full-time faculty is satisfactory. In the dance program, athletic training and some intercollegiate sports, the ratio is greater than 2:1. Additional full-time faculty members are needed in those areas. The division has made an ongoing request for an athletics training faculty position to be created and filled. Presently, one faculty member is 60% reassigned as an athletics trainer, covering seven team sports. This dilutes the true ratio of full-time to part-time faculty. It also creates an unworkable situation when both men's and women's team sports events are scheduled at the same time. Frustrations and scheduling conflicts arise and athletic teams are inadequately served. In the area of intercollegiate sports there is a particular need for additional full-time faculty to allow adequate program evaluation and support.

A divisional travel budget was also recommended as a way to assist those faculty interested in pursuing continuing professional development by attending clinics, seminars and classes off campus.

New faculty members are hired in accordance with AVC policies and are evaluated systematically.

Recommendations:

1. Prioritize the hiring of at least one more athletics trainer. Clarification of whether the position may be classified or not may be needed.
2. Clarification of the stated need for lifeguards when the swimming pool is in use. A description of the minimum requirements to satisfy this need would aid in achieving compliance.

Part IV. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The Peer Team learned that instructional areas and existing facilities are worn out and in constant use. Lectures are delivered in other areas of the campus. Some sports such as golf and bowling are conducted off campus. While the constant use is commendable, the number of course offerings is now at its maximum, making growth to meet the needs of the community impossible until more square footage is added to the facilities. Storage for equipment and locker room facilities are no longer adequate and office space is insufficient. Student surveys showed that less than 50% of students believed that their equipment was in good repair, was up to date and was adequate in amount.

The division regularly seeks information from its students and analyses the data in planning for new course offerings. The analyses indicate that all facilities are being used to their full capacity and that students are sometimes thwarted in their desire to participate in activities due to lack of rooms and/or facilities for holding the desired classes. The division is sensitive to comments about the deteriorating facilities and too few activity and dance classes. The Physical Education and Athletics division has made renovation of facilities and expansion of existing facilities its top priority.

The Educational Master Plan calls for a comprehensive list of improvements that would essentially triple the existing facilities and allow for a doubling of LHEs being offered. The division has placed a strong emphasis on seeing the Master Plan continue. Renovations to the athletics stadium and football and baseball fields commenced June 2007.

The facilities and equipment used by the Physical Education and Athletics division serve the athletics needs of the Antelope Valley in continuing all but two of the High School sports offered in the region. Community offerings are also plentiful and expansion in this area is planned as facilities are improved and expanded. Classes designed specifically for senior citizens and addition of a walking path around the football, baseball and soccer fields are expected to attract many community members interested in maintaining general fitness.

The Peer Team agrees with the self-study's description of facilities as "inadequate". Outdated and sometimes hazardous equipment is another pervasive problem. The remodeling of the facilities has been outlined clearly on a number of past occasions and constantly postponed over the past several decades.

Recommendations:

1. Create additional facilities, as outlined in the Educational Master Plan, to allow classes to be offered more frequently and to allow for the addition of more sports to the present list.
2. Emphasis on the creation of ADA (Americans with Disabilities) compliant facilities is recommended to provide full access to all community members who might wish to use the new facilities.

Part V. FISCAL SUPPORT

Budgetary allowances have been meager of the past few years. The division has developed plans for facility replacement and expansion that appear to accommodate growth well into the future, allowing a potential doubling of existing LHEs and a tripling of the existing facilities square footage. These plans were available for examination and were shared with members of the Peer Team. The dean has played an active role in recruiting community financial support for many new construction plans across the AVC campus, including the playing field and stadium renovations that began in June of 2007.

Recommendations:

1. Capital expenditure to provide the facilities described in the Educational Master Plan is essential to allow Physical Education, Dance and Health Education offerings to keep up with student demand and to allow compliance with Title IX requirements. The efforts by the division to plan for the future have been considerable and plans also appear to have been updated regularly, while the division awaits funding allocations.
2. If lifeguards at the swimming pool are mandated, financial support to cover their salaries should be added to the budget. A description of the minimum requirements for the position should be provided.

Part VI. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The division maintains a high profile at community events ranging from recruitment of athletes at local high schools to appearances at service club functions. Community participation in the college activities is impressively high, when compared with that of other districts.

The Peer Team learned of many classes that have been planned for community enrichment, once facilities are available. Examples include yoga and health education classes for senior citizens. The inclusion of a walking track in the plans for the playing field renovations will also provide additional community resources.

The AVC intercollegiate teams are highly successful in many of the sports that are offered. Faculty members provide excellent coverage of the sports events and furnish the campus members and the general public with detailed accounts of the season calendar through email notifications and articles uploaded onto the AVC Web site. Examples of the excellent publicity and sports coverage may be seen by visiting the Marauder Athletics home page at <http://avconline.avc.edu/athletics/>

Recommendations:

1. A higher level of recognition of the plans and achievements of the division is recommended, both on campus and in the public arena. It is suggested that articles be written or interviews with the local press be arranged which will emphasize the new facilities planned for community members. The schedule for community interest classes could be placed in community newspapers as well as the college schedule of classes at appropriate times for timely enrollment.

Part VII. STATE AND FEDERAL COLLEGE GUIDELINES

The division appears to comply with State and Federal college guidelines. The Peer Team recommends continued diligence in these areas.

SUMMARY

The Peer Team evaluating the Physical Education and Athletics division was strongly impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of the division members. Over a prolonged time period, the division has remained focused on improving the services provided to students and the community. Consistently revised plans for facilities have been made, and considerable allowance for expansion is evident. Course offerings for the future have also been planned, but expansion of existing programs and addition of new offerings cannot occur without additional facilities.

The Peer Team acknowledges the pressing needs of the Physical Education and Athletics division for expanded facilities and recognizes that these needs have been overlooked for some time. The performance of the division under very limiting circumstances is outstanding and the team feels that, if anything, the self-study document understates the divisional needs. Some additional statistics from the institutional planning offices are offered in this document, where it was felt that the self study data could be reinforced. Interviews with division members have revealed the dedication of all concerned to creating a first class set of facilities at Antelope Valley College to provide quality student education, excellence in competitive sports and a full service recreational and training environment for the community. This team recommends that the requests of the Physical Education and Athletics division for expanded facilities be seriously examined and that recommendations included in the Educational Master Plan be implemented as soon as is feasible.