Communication Studies

**Program Strengths and Accomplishments**
The program is designed to promote critical thinking skills, intercultural understanding, public speaking abilities and improved interpersonal relationships. Enrollment in the courses has been relatively stable and basically reflects the enrollment pattern of the college. Student success in courses has been relatively consistent, with only a slight percentage decrease in the retention rate. Student surveys indicate a high level of satisfaction with the instruction they receive, with a rating of approximately ninety eight percent in the excellent/good category. The department faculty is to be commended for their extensive involvement on campus committees, sponsoring co-curricular activities and being club advisors. The annual High School Forensic Tournament, sponsored by the department, is an excellent venue for promoting the department and college. They also are to be commended for working with other disciplines in developing instructional programs to meet student needs and help them succeed. Over the years, the Forensic Program has achieved State and national recognition. The faculty has been very successful in preparing students to compete not only against two year colleges but also universities.

**Other Issues Facing the Department**
The department has identified future technological and personnel needs. With remodeling of the Humanities Building scheduled for summer, 2008, and because of the unique teaching and learning modality used by the faculty, the department is encouraged to begin the process of identifying the equipment needed to continue providing the excellent and unique instruction. The department is also encouraged to go through the campus process to pursue personnel needs. The faculty is encouraged to continue their participation in the process of developing Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment.

**Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years**
- Increase enrollment in Speech Communication courses and programs
- Expand departmental internet presence
- Modernize the department recording and playback system
- Convey clearer departmental identity to be consistent with regional and national organizations and with universities
- Improve department efficiency
- Add Communication Studies Course to Learning Community program on campus