History

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
The History program continues as a key component of the Social Science Division. As the surrounding community continues to increase in diversity, the History Department has infused multi-cultural topics into program curriculum. The Department is currently developing curriculum to address the increasing relevance and importance of Asian history topics. Program faculty members have also been actively involved in community outreach activities, including the presentation of lectures to a variety of community groups. In an effort to provide a variety of instructional modalities, the Department has committed to and achieved significant increases in the availability and use of technology in the classroom. These efforts have resulted in the development of “smart” classrooms and instructional computer carts. The Department has increased the number of sections offered in alternative time formats, including short-term, night and weekend classes, as well as sections offered in a sixteen week timeframe. Student retention and success rates have both increased in the last 2 years.

Other Issues Facing the Department
The History Department will be significantly challenged during the Humanities building remodel. Though adequate numbers of swing space classrooms have been identified, the challenge will be to provide a sufficient number of seats to address student demand. Ongoing discussions regarding the viability of offering Department courses on-line may result in action that will provide additional opportunities for faculty members and for students. Though the Humanities building remodel will significantly address many of the facilities concerns of the past, including the need to modernize classroom equipment and furniture, the lack of increase in base budgets over the last 5 years results in net reductions as program costs increase. Appropriate program maintenance demands sufficient funding levels in future years.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
• Increasing inclusion of multi-cultural topics within existing courses.
• Improvement of instructional technology through budgeting and planning.
• Offer an Asian History course beginning in the fall of 2008.
• Maintain a creative and flexible schedule to address student needs.
• Continued monitoring and evaluation of adjunct instructors.
• Participation in the Teacher Preparation program.
• Maintain close communications with the counseling department in order to address transfer issues for our students.
• Review the decline in History Department enrollment over the past 5 years. Develop effective strategies to increase student demand for program courses.
• Maintain the academic integrity of all courses offered within the program.