

Part IV: Planning Categories
Unit (Geography, Liberal Arts)

October 2006 update and extension to 2012

| PLANNING CATEGORIES | INITIATIVE/GOAL | STATUS AS OF OCTOBER 2006 | goal date from 2006 | | COMMENT |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--|
| | | | 12 mon | 2-5 yr | |
| A. Academic Programs | | | | | |
| 1. New programs | | | | | |
| A. | Establish PhD program in Geographic Systems of the U.S. | DELETED | | | The Geography Department will concentrate its efforts on its three existing doctoral programs. |
| B. | Establish Remote Sensing Certificate | DELETED | | | The Department will concentrate on its existing GIS certificate (see A.1.C. and A.2.B. below). |
| C. | Make a GIS certificate available to post-bachelor students. | NEW OBJECTIVE | | x | Either propose a new GIScience graduate certificate or find a procedure to enable post-bachelor students to take the existing undergrad GIS certificate. |
| 2. Changes to existing programs | | | | | |
| A. | Articulation agreements with Texas community colleges | ONGOING | | x | No progress to report. |
| B. | Revise undergraduate GIS certificate to include remote sensing/cartography component | NEW OBJECTIVE | | x | Changes to be proposed during 2006-07. |
| C. | Establish Teaching Practicum courses for incoming graduate assistants. | NEW OBJECTIVE - COMPLETED | | | Established effective Fall 2006. |
| D. | Assume administration of the Geology Minor and undergraduate courses at Texas State | NEW OBJECTIVE | | x | Transition of the Geology program from Biology to Geography effective Fall 2007 is underway. |
| E. | Ensure that the earth sciences are well-represented in the Natural Science component of the general education core curriculum | NEW OBJECTIVE | | x | Propose that GEO 2410 Physical Geography and a new 1000-level Meteorology course be included in the Natural Science component of the University's general education core curriculum. |

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3. New distance programs

- | | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|----------|--|
| A. | Establish distance education programs ... e.g. Online GIS | DELETED | | The on-line GIS program was established and then discontinued. Many such programs are available while our GIS resources are fully engaged in our campus undergraduate and graduate programs. |
| B. | Establish "Summer Cohort" delivery method for the geographic education PhD program | NEW OBJECTIVE | x | The first cohort for this unique program started in Summer '05 - some students have recently completed comp exams. A second cohort will be recruited for a Summer '07 start date. |

4. Changes to existing distance programs

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----------------|----------|---|
| A. | Educational outreach programs | ONGOING | x | The Department is engaged in many such activities especially through the auspices of the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education and the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education. |
|----|-------------------------------|----------------|----------|---|

B. Student Learning and Success

1. Retention/completion rates

- | | | | | |
|----|---|----------------------|----------|--|
| A. | Maintain high quality graduate and undergraduate programs | ONGOING | x | It will be essential to replace retiring faculty members with new undergraduate and graduate faculty to maintain high quality in our programs. |
| B. | NCGE Distinguished Teaching honors | COMPLETED | | Two more faculty members received this honor during 2006. Therefore, the Department has exceeded the original goal. |
| C. | Timely graduation of PhD students with a doubling of annual graduates for 2005-06 through 2011-12 compared to 1999-00 through 2004-05 | NEW OBJECTIVE | x | For the six academic years 1999-2000 through 2004-05, 18 PhD students graduated or 3 per year. For 2005-06 through 2011-12, our goal is to double this to an average of 6 per year. For 2005-06, we graduated 8 doctoral students. |
| D. | Maintain high quality Master's degree programs | NEW OBJECTIVE | x | MAG programs in geo-education and Land/Area Management and Development are being revitalized. An ad hoc committee is studying MAG/MS issues. |

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2. Student Learning Outcomes

| | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|----------|--|
| A. | Strive to be a well-recognized PhD-granting department | COMPLETED/ONGOING | | Texas State has the largest graduate program of any PhD-granting department in the nation. Its reputation for quality is growing as evidenced by faculty scholarship and alumni job placement. |
| B. | Continue to have graduate students recognized with awards and honors | COMPLETED/ONGOING | | Texas State graduate students have been frequently recognized with awards at national meetings, post-doctoral positions, and quality job placements within academia, government agencies, and the private sector. |
| C. | Graduate first PhD students in Geographic Information Science | COMPLETED | | In May 2006, the first two GIScience doctorates were awarded. |
| D. | Have adequate space for all of our academic programs | MODIFIED | x | Renovations are being proposed to add a teaching lab to facilitate the geology program. Geography will need to acquire the entire third floor of the Evans building, after the new academic building is built, in order to ensure adequate space for future teaching and research needs. |
| E. | Establish learning outcomes objectives and measures | NEW OBJECTIVE | x | Learning outcomes objectives and procedures are under development. |

C. Scholarly and Creative Activity/Grant Activity

1. New efforts to promote scholarly/creative activity

| | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|----------|--|
| A. | Strive to be a well-recognized PhD-granting department | COMPLETED/ONGOING | | See B.2.A above. |
| B. | Have three named and endowed research centers | ONGOING/MODIFIED | x | The Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education has a significant endowment. While no significant progress has been made towards establishing endowments for either the Lovell Center or the Texas Center for GIScience, efforts will continue to secure either endowment funds or increased research grant funding. |

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| C. | High-quality publications | COMPLETED/ONGOING | | <p>The journal <i>Research in Geographic Education</i> is back on schedule.</p> <p>The Texas Atlas project is well-established.</p> <p>The Lovell Center sponsored a special issue of the journal <i>Physical Geography</i> that focused on recent Texas floods.</p> |
| D. | Host 2006 Applied Geography Conference | MODIFIED | x | <p>Instead of hosting the Applied Geography Conference, the Department has played a pivotal role in preparing the University to host the interdisciplinary Race, Ethnicity and Place Third international conference to be held on campus November 1-4, 2006.</p> <p>The Grosvenor Center will co-host an international geographic education research conference in Chile during May 2007.</p> |
| E. | Accrue 1500 publications | ONGOING/DELETED | | <p>Our faculty is well-published. It is anticipated that the quantity and quality of faculty publications will continue to be stellar. The specific numeric target has been deleted given departed and retiring faculty.</p> |

2. External funding activity

| | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|---|
| A. | Grants and contracts annual income | MODIFIED | x | <p>Through 2012, the Department seeks to obtain an average of \$1 million of NEW contracts per year and an average of \$1 million of NEW research grants per year.</p> |
| B. | Endowed Chairs | MODIFIED | x | <p>The Departments of Geography and Biology have proposed a joint appointment for a Mitte Chair of Water and GIScience.</p> <p>The Department has a modified goal of establishing one endowed professorship by the year 2012.</p> |

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| C. | Adequate space for research | MODIFIED | x | See B.2.D. regarding space expansion needed within the Evans Liberal Arts building for Geography. The Department also houses research activities in the Medina and Colorado buildings - we anticipate the need to retain the use of these facilities. |
| D. | Initiatives for departmental Research Centers | ONGOING | x | |
| E. | Initiatives for department-led inter-disciplinary Centers | MODIFIED/ONGOING | x | Geography no longer houses the director for CETMAR, although geography faculty members remain active with the Center. The Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism has proposed a name and emphasis change. |
| D. Development | | | | |
| A. | Establish \$1 million department endowment | MODIFIED/ONGOING | x | It is anticipated that Geography's scholarship endowment will exceed \$1 million before 2012. |
| B. | Sponsored scholarships | MODIFIED/DELETED | | Merge this goal with goal D.A. above. |
| C. | Annual Geography Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration | COMPLETED/ONGOING | | This highly successful event has become an ongoing tradition. |
| E. Diversity | | | | |
| 1. Major efforts to promote faculty diversity | | | | |
| A. | Increase faculty diversity | NEW OBJECTIVE | x | The Department hired a new Hispanic faculty member effective Fall 2006. The number of female tenure-track faculty members has declined from 7 in 2003 to only 4 in 2006. Increasing faculty diversity is an important goal for future hiring. |
| 2. Major efforts to promote student diversity | | | | |
| A. | Have a diverse student body reflecting the diversity within Texas | ONGOING | x | The Department participates extensively with minority student groups on campus. Recruitment of minority students is an ongoing process. |

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B. Have a strong international presence among the faculty and students

COMPLETED/ONGOING

Nine of 29 full-time faculty have international origins which reflects a high degree of international presence. Approximately 30% of doctoral students are international which also reflects a high degree of international presence.

C. High degree of Latino and African-American student body

MODIFIED/DELETED

Merge this goal with goal E.2.A. above.

F. Other

A. Review of three Ph.D. programs

COMPLETED

B. Have a quality website

ONGOING

x In progress.

C. Landscape beautification around the Evans building

ONGOING

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