Office of the Dean, School of Arts & Letters

Office or Department of Academic Affairs
Administrative Unit Assessment
Year Reporting: FY 20 (July 2019-July 2020)

Department and Assessment Report Information

Prepared on: 8/11/2020 5:05:41 PM	**Prepared by: mary.wearn@mga.edu**
For which department or area are you reporting?	**School of Arts & Letters**
What is the name and MGA email address of the person responsible for this report?	**Mary Wearn, mary.wearn@mga.edu**

Departmental Mission and Goals
The mission and goals of the department should be consistent over a 5 year period, although some institutional changes may necessitate and prompt a change in mission or goals for specific departments. In this section, you will report the mission statement for your department as well as the long term goals (5 year range) for the department.

What is the mission statement for this department/area? Your mission should explain why the department/area exists and who it serves.	The mission of the School of Arts & Letters is to provide broad access to arts and humanities education that promotes creativity, elevates culture, encourages the pursuit of happiness, and prepares intellectually agile citizens to serve our communities and the creative economy of Georgia.

What are the goals for this department? These should be the "big things" the department/area intends to accomplish within 5 years.	(A) Grow Enrollment with Purpose (B) Increase Student Success and Engagement (C) Foster Efficient Progression and Timely Graduations

Objectives

Each year, every department should identify objectives the department hopes to accomplish in the next year. These should align with departmental goals and the MGA strategic plan. In the next section you will be reporting on the objectives you set and whether or not you achieved them in FY20. Later in the document you will report on objectives you hope to accomplish in the coming fiscal year, FY21.

Objective 1

Objective 1: What was this department's first objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Build SoAL Departmental Enrollment with special emphasis on graduate programming and programs that showed a decline in the previous year (English, History) (Aligns with Goal A)
Objective 1: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Spring 2019 to Spring 2020 Enrollment for (a) SOAL (c) BA English (d) BA History; Fall 2019 to Spring 2020 Enrollment for Graduate Certificate and MA.
Objective 1: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Spring to Spring Enrollment Growth of 3% in SOAL, BA English, BA History; 3% Fall to Spring Enrollment growth in graduate programming.
Objective 1: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	SoAL had a 25% enrollment gain spring to spring 2019 (784 students) to 2020 (586 students) [measured on census day February 19 2019 and 2020; Dual Enrollment Students Excluded]. The Ba in English increased by 4.7%% (86 in 2019 and 90 in 2020) and the BA in History increased by 17.8% (73 in 2019 and 86 in 2020). Fall 2018 to spring 2020 enrollment in the graduate certificate and MA in Technical and Professional Writing was 40% (from 20 in fall 2019 to 28 in spring 2020. (Parenthetically an enrollment decline was noted in Media & Communication).
Objective 1: Did your department meet this objective?	The department exceeded this objective.
Objective 1: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	Focus on enrollment outreach was highly successful and needs to be applied in other areas - most notable Media & Communications, which had a decline from spring 2019 to spring 2020. The Arts while not in decline, do not have robust from and would benefit from targeted outreach. The graduate programs were new in fall 2019. The fall to spring growth was encouraging and we will continue to put energy and focus here,

Objective 2

Objective 2: What was this department's second objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Ensure student academic success across SOAL classes by discipline (Aligns with Goal B)
Objective 2: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Success rates by class discipline.
Objective 2: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	75% success rates fall 2019 and spring 2020 in individual class disciplines
Objective 2: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	The following disciplines achieved the 75% success rate: ARTS (F 79.94 S 84.05); COMM (F 83.12 S 79.84); IDS (F 84.21; 77.78); MCOM (F 83.96 S 87.50); MUSA (F 93.33 S 89.13; NMAC (F 84.20 S 83.84); THEA (F 77.78, S 86.05). The following disciplines DID NOT achieve the 75% rate both semesters CRWR (F 74.55; S 71.43), ENGL (F 75.12 S 71.89); FREN (F 86.36, SP 63.83); HIST (F 72.41 S 70.96); HUMN (F 70.24; S 71.23); SPAN (F 73.89 S 75.25)
Objective 2: Did your department meet this objective?	The department did not meet this objective.
Objective 2: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	Success in classes is uneven and is lagging in CRWR, ENGL, FREN, HIST, HUMN, SPAN. We will focus on success in these classes in the coming year with analysis of where the problem lies (is it instructor specific or not?).

Objective 3

Objective 3: What was this department's third objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Build co-curricular programming to support student engagement. (Aligns with Goal B)
Objective 3: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Number of Activities by Type
Objective 3: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Grow programming to provide 50 or more events. Have at least one event of cultural prominence to attract regional attendance.
Objective 3: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	We held 71 different co-curricular events in the following categories: Art exhibitions: 5; Lectures, Discussions, & Panels: 18; Film Events with Discussions: 7; Theater:8; Poetry/Literary Readings: 3; Writing Workshops/Events: 8; Music: 7; International/Modern Language Events: 8; Music: 7; Field Trips: 4; Conferences: 1; Student Showcases/Performances: 3. Our cultural programming included 2020 Pulitzer Prize Winning poet Jericho Brown, who drew a community audience of about 100. 2020 Poet Laureate of the United States Joy Harjo did a poetry reading for upwards of 600 people from across the region.
Objective 3: Did your department meet this objective?	The department exceeded this objective.
Objective 3: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	We need to collect more data in the future to measure the impact of cultural programming on students. We will be working with Student Affairs, which recently purchased software to track student activities to measure success in this arena.

Objective 4

Objective 4: What was this department's fourth objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Increase number of graduates in baccalaureate programs. (Aligns with Goal C)
Objective 4: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Number of Graduates FA 2018, SP 2019, FA 2019, and SP 2020
Objective 4: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Increase number of graduates by at least 2% in 3/5 of baccalaureate programs.
Objective 4: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	4/5 programs had at least 2% graduation growth. BA, English: 11.1% Increase in graduates (9 in FA 18 and SP 19 combined and 10 in FA 19 and SP 20) BA, IDS : 36.4% increase in graduates (11 in FA 18 and SP 19 combined and 10 in FA 15 and SP 20) BA, Media and Communication: 18.2% increase in graduates (22 in FA 18 and SP 19 combined and 26 in FA 15 and SP 20) BA, Music - First graduates in 19-20: 4 The BA, History had a 38.5% decline in graduates (13 in FA 18 and SP 19 combined and 8 in FA 15 and SP 20)
Objective 4: Did your department meet this objective?	The department met this objective.
Objective 4: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	History's weak graduation performance has been a lagging indicator of declining enrollment. Revisions to the curriculum that were implemented in the new catalog should help progression and graduation in history as well as other disciplines.

Future Plans

Please identify and detail three to four measurable objectives for the next fiscal year. In listing the objectives, please use the format shown in these examples.1) The Department of X will improve services levels by 5% as measured by our satisfaction survey. 2) The department of X will provide training in ABC for at least 73 MGA faculty and staff.	(1) SoAL will have a fall 2019 to fall 2020 enrollment growth of 3%; the Graduate programs will have a fall 2019 to fall 2020 enrollment growth of 3%; the Media and Communication program will have a spring 2020 to spring 2021 enrollment growth of 3%; the Art and Music programs (AA and BA) will have a spring 2020 to spring 2021 enrollment growth of 3%. [Based on enrollment at census] (2) SoAL will achieve 75% success in all of its classes by discipline. (3) SoAL will hold at least 50 cultural events that will serve a minimum of 750 student participants who will have documented engagement/benefit from the events. (4) SoAL will increase the number of graduates in baccalaureate and graduate programs by 2%, while reducing the number of credit hours to degree in bachelor's programs by 2%.
Based on this assessment, please share your thoughts on the current status and future direction of this department or area.	SOAL has made great progress in its 1st year of existence. We will work next year to refine assessments and measurement instruments.

Open Box for Additional Comments

Open Text Box For Assessment Comments:	N/A
If the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this assessment cycle, please provide specific details below.	Covid 19 curtailed many cultural events planned in support of student engagement (Goal B). Student Success in classes was likely impacted by Covid 19 Spring 2020 semester.