

**Speech Department  
Needs Assessment  
Updated: March 30, 2010**

**A. HUMAN RESOURCE NEEDS**

- 1. Forensics Coach/Classroom Instructor: We will lose two full-time instructors to retirement who will need to be replaced. Because the forensics coach is such a time consuming and energy sapping position we have traditionally hired faculty replacements who can take on the role of coaching. The hiring of two full-time coaches/instructors (also referred to as directors) allows a current coach to eventually rotate into a straight classroom teaching position. This means that our students are never left without a coach/director to serve them and sustain our forensics program. If in fact these replacements are not hired after these retirements occur then our department will have about 75% percent of its course offerings being taught by part-time faculty.**
- 2. Part-time Faculty: Even with two full-time coaches (understanding that one is a rotating coach into straight classroom instruction), it remains necessary for us to offer OSH to maintain part-time coaching support as our team continues to grow and develop. In the past, our dean has supported us by allowing us to dedicate an increased amount of OSH to an assistant coach. This type of support is much appreciated and must continue in order for our program to compete at the nationally recognized level it has consistently achieved in the past.**

**B. INSTRUCTIONAL NEEDS**

- 1. Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College have ended their district-wide forensic program. Consequently, we are in the process of essentially growing a new program here at Saddleback. This requires an increased amount of financial support from both the college and the ASG. The department would clearly prefer the team be funded entirely by the college and not from our ASG. In 2009, Saddleback College, the speech department, hired a 2<sup>nd</sup> co-director to facilitate the need to successfully and effectively manage our growing Forensics program. Our Forensics team has almost doubled in size in the 2009-2010 season alone. This means paperwork has doubled, more weekend and evening hours are required, and an excess of 20 more coaching hours per coach per week. Consequently, two stipends are warranted - one for each co-director as it is was prior to the district splitting into two independent programs. A successful, competitive and educational speech team cannot thrive without continuous and predictable funding.**
- 2. As a department we continue to monitor our curriculum so as to reflect community needs, articulation agreements, and the discipline. This spring semester we are once again offering speech 2: persuasion which**

**will benefit our students in providing them with another option for associate degree requirements and transfer success. Unfortunately, however, we will be losing our full-time speech3: argumentation and debate instructor at the end of this spring semester. This loss intensifies our need to replace our retiring department members with full-time instructors/coaches in order to maintain department integrity. We say this because it has historically been the case that our students have had the opportunity to take any of our general education courses with a full-time member of our department, and it would be a disservice to our students to omit speech 3 from our class offerings in order to satisfy this department concern.**

**3. We are currently offering a class schedule that includes offerings throughout the day and evening every day except Sunday, and do not see a need to vary our scheduling. At this point we do not offer any on-line courses.**

#### **C. RESEARCH NEEDS**

- 1. At present, there is no mechanism to track speech majors on campus. The implementation of such a research tracking system would allow better facilitation of the needs, challenges and requirements of an ever-changing campus demographic.**
- 2. It would be useful to implement a research method to track earned speech degrees. Though the program has identified a major in speech, the school has no method of notifying a department of the number of degrees awarded annually to students identifying as speech majors.**

#### **D. TECHNICAL, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RESOURCE NEEDS**

- 1. The department currently has four camcorders, which is not enough to satisfy even each full-time instructor's needs. We would like to have at least three more camcorders/tripods. The additional camcorders would ensure that each full-time instructor's needs are met and our part-timers' needs are met as we would have two camcorders for their use as well. Also, the two extra camcorders would serve as backups for inevitable maintenance problems.**
- 2. We would also like to see our speech labs reestablished. The original configuration of the Fine Arts complex included a speech lab that fed into classrooms 311 and 312. The labs also included three student play-back rooms. We would like to see these facilities returned to the department in order that we might maximize the instructional potential of our classes. We continue to wait for the wall separating FA 311 and 312 to be made permanent and soundproof.**
- 3. This report earlier mentioned the addition of a measurement tool for communication apprehension. This tool requires a specialized scoring machine. As of this writing, the college is in the process of purchasing**

several of these machines. The machines also need specialized technical support software to assist in the scoring. Ideally, the Speech department would like to have its own scoring machine and software.

#### **E. FACILITIES NEEDS**

1. There is a paramount need to provide the Saddleback Forensics Team with a squad room and a technical space. Both research and practice are a huge factor in the team's success and at present there is not a physical space for that need. This spring the problem has become increasingly problematic as our co-director now shares her office which means even that small space is no longer a rehearsal room she can count on to use for her students. When the Forensics team was a district program from 1980-2006, the situation was not as problematic because the squad room and technical space was provided by Irvine Valley College. This physical space included 3 computer stations, a printer, student mailboxes, tables, and a space to practice at any needed time without interruptions.

#### **F. MARKETING AND OUTREACH NEEDS**

1. The Speech department promotes its specialized courses through in-class marketing involving our entire faculty. Counseling also assists in marketing, encouraging Saddleback students to take courses in addition to the ones they have to take in order to fulfill general education and transfer requirements. Now that the college has a Director of Public Information and Marketing and a Fine Arts Director of Public Information, we can also use these individuals to promote our courses.