2014-15 Proposal to Fill a Full-Time Faculty Position

1. Faculty position being proposed
Geography

2. Proposal Being Made by (List Name(s) and Title(s))
Dr. Paul Belasky, Professor of Geology

3. Summary description of the position
Teaching courses in geography currently taught by part-time faculty, such as Physical Geography (GEOG 101), Cultural Geography (GEOG 102), and California Geography (GEOL 105), as well as new courses such as Economic Geography (GEOG 106), and (in the future) courses currently taught by full-time faculty such as World Regional Geography (GEOG 104) and Geographic Information Systems (GEOG 121-123).

4. Rationale for filling this position: include examples of how this position impacts students, program needs, and college goals
Knowledge of geography is essential for improvement of society by achieving geographic literacy (a primary student learning objective of our geology and geography programs at the Ohlone College). It is also fundamental for understanding the climate change, sustainability of the Earth system, and awareness of global environmental, economic, and political issues that are essential for becoming better informed voters as well as responsible, educated citizens of the world. It fosters openness to differing viewpoints, cultural diversity, and stewardship of our environmental resources, which are part of the Ohlone core values and college goals 5 and 6. Furthermore, advanced studies of the Geographic Information Systems provide our students with more opportunities for career entry, which is part of our college’s mission.

5. Are there any externally imposed requirements such as a specialized program accreditation that would put this program in jeopardy if a full time position is not filled? If so, please explain.

6. Any other rationale to support the position proposal:
GEOG 101 has been and still is a very popular course, with some of the highest enrollment in science at the Ohlone College. However, finding a qualified instructor has become a real challenge in the years since the retirement of George Rodgers, full-time faculty in Geography and Anthropology. Hiring of a full-time instructor will solve the problem and provide the needed consistency and continuity in geography instruction.

The remaining questions to be completed by Deans

7. A statement by the Dean of the division housing this position, which includes data, evidence, and analysis.
Since the retirement of George Rodgers in spring of 2013, we have had instability in our geography course offerings and department. For years, these courses were important for student access and generated revenue that helped support smaller, more expensive course offerings in the SEM Division and other departments in other divisions.

DATA SUMMARY:

8. What is the department FTES?
40.02

9. What is the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty in the department?
According to the data, technically it is 21:79. This is because Paul Belasky, FT Geology, teaches a section of Geography and Narinder Bansal, FT ENVS instructor, teaches a couple of Geography classes to fill out his load. Both Narinder and Paul’s primary assignments are in other departments/divisions.
10. What is the ratio of full-time faculty to department FTES?  
100

11. What is the current WSCH/FTEF in the department?  
666

12. What is the number of sections taught by full-time faculty and number taught by part-time faculty?  
3 (FT) and 5 (PT), which is a reduction from the past. We have had to cut sections recently due to not being able to find qualified adjuncts.

13. Does the position address an area of growth? If yes, include a three year trend line for FTES.  
It has declined recently due to George retiring and due to cutting sections, not because of a lack of demand but due to staffing.