Jeanne Holcomb  
Statement of Consulting Approach

*Background:* I served as department chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at the University of Dayton for four years (2019-2023). I began my career at UD as a lecturer, then continued as an assistant professor and associate professor, and received promotion to professor in 2023. I received my PhD in Sociology from the University of Florida in 2010.

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at the University of Dayton is an undergraduate serving department. We have fifteen full-time faculty, and offer a major in sociology and minors in anthropology, social work, family development, and sociology. We also help cover the interdisciplinary social science course that is required of all sophomore level students at the university. UD is a private, Catholic university with approximately eight thousand undergraduate students.

*Experiences and Contributions:* During my time as chair, the department completed the Curriculum Mapping Tool for Sociology, created program learning outcomes based on ASA materials, and completed our program review with ASA PRC reviewers. We created common learning objectives for courses and refined our mission, vision, and identity statements based on feedback from our reviewers. My experiences with these resources and with undergoing program review as department chair inform my approach to program review.

*Philosophy and Motivations:* Most importantly, I hope to be a useful resource for any department that I work with, and for the individuals in those departments. I see my primary role as listening – listening to the strengths of the department and helping shine light on those, listening to students, and listening to faculty of all ranks. As an outsider to the department, I aim to provide a fair assessment of a program’s strengths while also acknowledging that there is almost always room for improvement.

My time as chair marked a period of transition for the department. We had been through a number of challenging situations, and I was appointed as chair knowing that the department sought some significant changes. As chair, I was attentive to departmental processes, making sure that processes were as transparent as possible and that we had engaged in conversation in department matters. These experiences helped me realize the importance of listening, of developing mechanisms for individual input, and of clear communication.

My experience in chair is rooted in my institutional context, which is a mid-sized, Catholic university in the midwest, in a department of fifteen faculty members from three disciplinary areas. The tools and knowledge I gained through our use of ASA resources, our own experience with external program reviewers, and my approach to leadership based on consultation and transparency could be valuable to a range of schools and departments.