From: Provost Office
To: Beck Terrell D; Butterfield Bradley J; Cashion Matthew D; Crank Virginia N; Crutchfield Susan; Davidson Mary V; Gappa Richard J; Graham Carla J; Gray James A; Hart David W; Jessee Sharon A; Konas Gary P; Kopp Bryan M; Pandit Lalita; Pribek Thomas R; Sullivan Richard A; Voiku Daniel J; Lan Haixia; Young Joseph A;
cc: Hoar Robert H; Hoffman Michael A; Morgan Betsy L; Wilson Carmen R;
Subject: Academic Program Review
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 3:46:36 PM

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

April 20, 2008

To: Members of the English Department

From: Bill Colclough, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Re: Academic Program Review

As one component of a commitment to excellence at UW-La Crosse, academic departments undergo an Academic Program Review (APR) on a regular cycle. Departments that have external accreditation, participate in UW-L's APR the year following their accreditation review. Departments without external accreditation participate in the process every seven years and the process includes an external reviewer. Free standing minors go through an abbreviated process every seven years.

Each department develops a self-study as part of the process that reflects on curriculum, assessment, new initiatives, personnel, and support for achieving the program's goals. Academic program review is the responsibility of the faculty who comprise an academic department. Consequently, we are sending this letter to all members of your department.

The English Department will undergo review by APR in 2010. The department's last APR was reviewed by Faculty Senate in 2006.*

In the latest review the recommendations/concerns listed below were put forth by APR. Since the time of the review these recommendations may have gained or lost salience. However, in your next review, your department will be asked to describe

how they responded to the recommendations.

1. *The need for permanent budgetary support for the English Writing Center and its ancillary activities and initiatives. Traditionally, the English Writing Center has received ad hoc funding. This has resulted in significant instability. The APRC recommend that the University of Wisconsin La Crosse commit permanent, stable support to the English Writing Center. At a minimum, the following activities should receive budgetary support:*
    - *One (I) replacement quarter-time faculty position;*
    - *Student work-study;*
    - *The Writing Center's Online Module.*

2. *The need for a Writing Program Director to support freshman and remediation writing (ENG 110 and ENG 050, respectively).*

Given the number of sections of English 110 and the number of students enrolled in the course, the suggestion by the English Department leadership that "one size cannot fit all" in its approach to its students taking the course is apparently valid.

As virtually all UW-L students must take ENG 110, the demographics of the course are essentially the demographics of the university. As envisioned by the Department, the English Writing Director would conduct a skills-level assessment of freshmen and would direct curriculum according to the specific needs and potential of students. For example, English envisions a need for remediation tracks to support students who - even beyond ENG 050 - demonstrate deficiencies.

Over the past several years, the Provost's Office has worked with the APR committee and Faculty Senate to ensure up-to-date and useful documentation regarding APR. At the Faculty Senate website you will find timelines, policy, self-study formats, and samples of letters and schedules for external reviewers: http://www.uwlax.edu/facultysenate/committees/APRindex.html.At the Provost's Office website, we have posted the last set of APR recommendations for each unit/department and the full documentation for several of the more recently reviewed programs. http://www.uwlax.edu/provost/assessment/apr/calendar.htm.

Please feel free to ask your chair, Faculty Senate or our office about the process if you have questions.

CC: Ruthann Benson (Dean of College of Liberal Studies)
Bob Hoar (Faculty Intern to the Provost 2008-2009)

Mike Hoffman (Chair – APR 2007-2008)
Betsy Morgan (Faculty Intern to the Provost 2007-2008)
Carmen Wilson (Chair – Faculty Senate 2007-2008)

* The cycle for programs is based on the schedule posted at the link below: http://www.uwlax.edu/facultysenate/committees/APRindex.html.
Departments may request an official deferment for cause for one year. Only an official deferment alters the schedule.

Office of the Provost
and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
145 Graff Main Hall, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
1725 State Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone: (608)785-8007, Fax: (608)785-8046
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