From: Provost Office
To: Batesky James A; Battista Rebecca A; Felix Emmanuel S; Foster Carl C; Gibson Mark H; Mally Kristin K; Martinez Raymond D; Mikat Richard P; Pein Richard L; Porcari John P; Skemp-Arlt Karen M; Steffen Jeffrey P; Tymeson Garth T; Udermann Brian E; Waters David J; Wright Glenn A; Yu Chia-Chen;
cc: Mclean Karen P; Hoar Robert H; Hoffman Michael A; Morgan Betsy L; Wilson Carmen R;
Subject: Academic Program Review
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2008 3:09:02 PM

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

April 15, 2008

To: Members of the Human Performance Graduate Program

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 Human Performance Graduate Program will undergo review by APR in 2008. The department's last APR was reviewed by Faculty Senate in 2002.*

In the latest review the recommendations 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.

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Academic Program Review Committee:

The program produces highly competent graduates which have a high employment rate within six months of graduation. In an attempt to improve the program all students will be required to write a thesis or take a comprehensive exam. The potential increase number of thesis students will create a new demand for the faculty. The program does not have a clear statement of program goals, thus is not possible to determine if all the goals are met. The program is currently working on better defined goals.

In the 1994 Academic Program Review, the lack of outcome assessment tools was identified. Eight years later this lack of assessment still exists. Assessment methods in use by the program include: 1) attainment of student skills, 2) internal evaluation by the faculty, and 3) job placement rates. With the requirement of a thesis or a comprehensive exam (Spring 2002) the program will be able to measure education outcomes of their graduates. However there is no formal assessment of graduates in the work setting or employers of the graduates. Following discussion with the Academic Program Review subcommittee, clarification of ways to accomplish this task was made and the program will set this assessment into place. As a graduate program limited advising occurs prior to admission but a WEB page has been developed to provide program information. With the increase number of graduate students and the emphasis on research and a thesis, one additional faculty member has been hired.

Furthermore, the APR Committee recommends, for the next program review, that the AF/CR program keep summary records of the end-of-the-year student evaluations to include in their report. Perhaps a final question to rate student overall satisfaction of the program could be added, which could easily be averaged and reported. It would also be useful to the Committee if employment data were available - e.g., how many students found employment after graduation, how soon they were employed, whether they

were employed full-time or part-time, etc.

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: Karen McLean (Dean of Science and Health)
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
An affirmative action/equal opportunity employer