From: Provost Office
To: Baggett Jeffrey S; Bennie Barbara; Boyle Jeffrey A; Elfessi Abdulaziz M; Hasenbank Jon F; Hoar Robert H; Hulett Heather A; Kattchee Karl M; Kelly Susan E; Kosiak Jennifer J; Koster David W; Ledocq Rebecca L; Matchett Andrew J; Peirce James P; Reineke David M; Riley Bruce V; Kowalski Helen L; Toribio Sherwin G; Will Todd G;
cc: Mclean Karen P; Hoar Robert H; Hoffman Michael A; Morgan Betsy L; Wilson Carmen R;
Subject: Academic Program Review
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 3:38:01 PM

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

April 20, 2008

To: Members of the Department of Mathematics

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 Department of Mathematics will undergo review by APR in 2009. The department's last APR was reviewed by Faculty Senate in 2007.*

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.

1. *The department and administration need to work together to increase instructional staffing within the department. This is a serious issue that has resulted in an average of over 6 sections of classes per semester that should be offered not being staffed. Calculations show that the math department was unable to offer over 1200 seats in much needed mathematics classes over the past 4 years.*
2. *Compare failure/withdraw rates with other institutions*
3. *Develop consistent assessment procedures*
4. *Encourage student research*
5. *Continue to recruit and attract majors*

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