From: Provost Office
To: Calmes Victoria R; Dorado J Dorian; Hindson Jean M; Janecki Jean M; Kuderer Donald R; Lake Darlene M; Olson Audie J; Poulton Leslee; Rusterholz Barbara L; Socha Donald E; Stroud Dean G;
cc: Benson Ruthann E; Hoar Robert H; Hoffman Michael A; Morgan Betsy L; Wilson Carmen R;
Subject: Academic Program Review
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2008 3:15:40 PM

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

April 15, 2008

To: Members of the Department of Modern Languages

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 Modern Languages 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.

Assessing and Improving Instruction:

1. *Continue to pursue resources to support the implementation and potential expansion of the Oral Proficiency Interview, including the Dean's commitment to fund refresher training for faculty and/or release-time for faculty doing mid-program OPI's. Also, continue to consider the use of taped demonstrations of oral skills.*
2. *Develop means of assessing student learning in writing and reading. Although the new WIM program will help here, other methods might be devised.*
3. *Keep exploring the potential usefulness of an entry exam to the various majors.*
4. *Continue to support returning*

Studies Abroad students via advising and placement in. courses that will continue to increase their fluency.

5. *Continue to provide classroom work that demands oral performance and the development of increased grammatical competency.*
6. *Continue to work to find ways to monitor the burgeoning Spanish program.*
7. *Keep supporting the growth of and need for a strong TESOL program.*

Faculty/Staff Concerns:

1. *Keep pressing for new faculty positions.*
2. *Provide more mentoring for junior faculty as regards retention, tenure, and promotion.*
3. *Encourage a research tradition that considers ways to support the*

following:

a. *forums that showcase faculty projects*
b. *colloquia shared with other departments, such as English*
c. *collaborative projects*
d. *the use of summers to get conference articles ready for publication*
e. *grant applications that will allow for release time*
f. *upper-division courses that keep faculty members' research interests and expertise fresh.*

4. *Be sure the connection of the foregoing to merit and promotion is clear. Be sure all promotion and merit expectations are clear for all. Face-to-face annual review would help here.*
5. *Stay involved in University governance.*

Technology:

1. *Keep pressing for*

lab modification and technological updates.

2. *Access grant-support for Distance Learning.*

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.

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