From:	Provost Office
To:	Caravella Tracy J; Duquette R Daniel; Gilmore Gary D; Jecklin Jr Robert A; Oganowski Joan L; Rees Keely S; Wycoff-Horn Marcie R; Denton Peggy L; Devine Michael B; Fater Dennis C; Greany John F; Greiner Thomas; Gronwaldt Virginia H; Kernozek Thomas W; Straker Gwyneth;
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 3:43:22 PM

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

April 20, 2008

To: Members of the Physician Assistant Studies 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 Physician Assistant Studies Program will undergo review by APR in 2010. The department's last APR was reviewed by Faculty Senate in 2004.*

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 PA Program should be provided a full time program assistant.
2. The PA faculty are encouraged to seek funding from various sources so that certifications and insurances may be maintained and research skills knowledge may be kept current. Specifically, as suggested in the self-study document, the program should work to develop a new student fee.
3. With regard to the preclinical year, the PA program should reduce the length of the basic science curriculum, reducing redundancy while better building on students' undergraduate prerequisite preparation.
4. With regard to the preclinical year, the PA program should work to integrate clinical preparatory sciences, building cohesive courses.
5. With regard to the clinical year, the PA program should work to enhance curricular flexibility to allow more experiences in tertiary care settings.
6. With regard to the clinical year, the PA program should work to develop a schedule format that synchronizes students' experiences with other learners on the clinical services.
7. With regard to the clinical year, the PA program should work to strengthen preparation for inpatient practice and research skills.
8. Maintain a more regular alumni newsletter, as it may be a tool for recruitment and funding opportunities.

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.

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