From:	Provost Office
To:	Barnes Eric I; Pillai T A K; Ragan Robert J; Sallmen Shauna M; Sudhakaran Gubbi R;
cc:	Mclean Karen P; Hoar Robert H; Hoffman Michael A; Morgan Betsy L; Wilson Carmen R;
Subject:	Academic Program Review
Date:	Friday, May 30, 2008 12:08:54 PM

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

May 30, 2008

To: Members of the Department of Physics

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 Physics will undergo review by APR in 2012. The department's last APR review was officially due to be reviewed by Faculty Senate in 2006.*

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. *Although the Physics Department has implemented a variety of assessment techniques, they want to track their 3/2 dual degree students after they transfer from UW- L for their final two years as engineering students at another campus. We recommend they pursue ways to track these students.*
2. *The department should continue to seek additional space, especially laboratory space for its new faculty who are pursuing an active research agenda.*
3. *We agree with the department that the planetarium is a valuable departmental, campus, and community resource, and we share their concern that this learning tool might be lost once its director retires this spring. The planetarium is a classroom needed by the new astronomy specialist for his courses. We recommend that the department do all it can to resist the forces of budget and space constraints that threaten to eliminate this irreplaceable educational facility.*

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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