From: Provost Office
To: Blumentritt Tracie L; Carlisle Natalie; Cary Melanie; Deboer Betty V; Dixon Robert J; Johnson Emily J; Moore Charles M; Morgan Betsy L; Newton Jocelyn H; Ngo Dung; Oyster Carol K; Sullivan Sara M; Tobin Casey T; Vanvoorhis Bart A; Wilson Carmen R;
cc: Benson Ruthann E; Hoar Robert H; Hoffman Michael A; Morgan Betsy L; Wilson Carmen R;
Subject: Academic Program Review
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 3:49:36 PM

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

April 20, 2008

To: Members of the Psychology Department

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 Psychology Department will undergo review by APR in 2011. The department's last APR was reviewed by Faculty Senate in 2005.*

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 APR committee encourages the continuation of scholarly activities in the department. Although it is hard to focus on the scholarly activities with heavy teaching load, it is part of the mission and goals of both the department ad the university to attempt to improve both teaching and scholarly activities.*
2. *In relation to the previous recommendation, the APR committee recommends to the Dean the consideration of adding another faculty position to the department. The GenEd contribution of the department, its effective student advising and the expectation of improved scholarly activities are al influential factors for this recommendation.*
3. *Both the external reviewer and the Dean recommend the department formalize a plan of assessment of student learning. The APR committee agrees with this recommendation. It will be a valuable tool for the university to adopt such a formalized assessment plan.*
4. *Since the Dean expressed his full support for a retreat, the APR committee strongly recommends the department hold a retreat with the next year. A mission statement could be defined during this retreat.*

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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