From:	Provost Office
To:	Bulk Jac D; Cox Gerry R; Delgado Enilda A; Gedicks Al J; Gongaware Timothy B; Hippert Christine A; Lloyd Susannah M; Mcandrews Timothy L; Miller Carol D; Smith Sheldon; Theler James L; Tiffany Joseph A; Vogt Kimberly A; Zollweg William G;
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 3:39:08 PM

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

April 20, 2008

To: Members of the Sociology/Archeology 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 Sociology/Archeology Department will undergo review by APR in 2009. The department's last APR was reviewed by Faculty Senate in 2003.*

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. *Develop a set of 3-5 year goals and strategies.*

2. *Clarify the relationship between core classes and electives, specifically the 302/350 pair.*

3. *Add a statistics course that will meet the needs of students with regard to future graduate work.*

4. *Evaluate the efficacy of adding programs when external reviewer notes the risk of losing some of the coherence of course work.*

5. *Review the senior capstone course. Bring course material, research methods, and assessment in line with the Department's stated goals.*

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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