



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

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Date: May 25, 2020

To: Provost and Vice Chancellor, Patricia Kleine

From: MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Subject: APC report regarding program review of the Department of Economics

The Academic Policies Committee (APC) appreciates the time and effort of Chair, Thomas Kemp of the Department of Economics, the members of the Internal Review Committee (Tarique Niazi, Pedro Sottile, & Jan Stirm) and the external reviewer (Dr. Richard V. Adkisson) for the review of the Department of Economics. The internal review committee and external reviewer reports provided the committee useful information to assist us in forming our recommendations. While the APC recommendations are generally summarized on the attached spreadsheet APC is providing additional details in the form of this letter.

COMMENDATIONS:

The Department of Economics is to be commended for the following:

1. The department's continued commitments to High Impact Practices (HIPs) inside and outside of the classroom.
2. The department's faculty commitment to professional and public service.
3. The department's continued contributions to generated SCH.
4. The department's commitment to the assessment of student learning outcomes.
5. The department's high-level of participation and quality instruction in the LE program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Maintaining AACSB accreditation requirements for the BBA degree. The BBA degree accounts for about 75% of the Department of Economics majors. For the degree to be maintained within the department, faculty will have to meet the AACSB accreditation requirements. A primary concern noted in the requirements was the higher academic qualification standards for faculty. The department self-study, internal review committee, and external reviewer reports indicated incongruent messaging about the status of the BBA degree moving forward. The APC was reassured the department was in support of the BBA degree and initial steps have been taken to ensure compliance with AACSB (changes made to department's DEP).

Summary Recommendation:

The Department of Economics is doing a good job in providing an undergraduate program that aligns the curriculum with that of peer institutions. For the program to continue in their efforts, the APC recommends these immediate actions:

- Reconsider the amount of assessment being done on student learning outcomes as a means of addressing faculty workload concerns
- Enhanced communication with ARCC and undergraduate students regarding the perceived math competencies needed to be successful in the major

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Academic Policies Committee

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- Further exploration of ways to enhance EDI initiatives within the department via student recruitment, curricula modification, and/or professional development for faculty
- Continue requesting access to active learning classrooms to enhance the student learning experience
- Prioritize future FTE allotments to align with departments curricula needs and professional alignments.

APC strongly supports the recommendation from all the other review levels to “continue in present form” considering the recommendations made above.

Addendum to Program Review Form: The APC chose to leave recommendation (#11-Continue critical progress of moving department to the College of Business) blank. The APC acknowledges this is a decision for the department to decide and the issue may be revisited with personnel changes in the coming years.

Cc.

Dr. Thomas Kemp, Chair, Department of Economics

Dr. Mary Hoffman, Director of Academic Planning and Assessment