



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 Mathematics

The Academic Policies Committee (APC) appreciates the time and effort of Chair, Alex Smith of the Department of Mathematics, the members of the Internal Review Committee (Winnifred Bryant, Paul Kaldjian, & Robin Miller) and the external reviewer (Dr. Douglas Mupasiri) for the review of the Department of Mathematics. 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 Mathematics is to be commended for the following:

1. The department's seamless integration of UWEC-BC faculty/staff into curricula delivery and service to the department.
2. The department's longstanding exemplary leadership.
3. The department's continued contributions to generated SCH.
4. The department's continued commitments to High Impact Practices (HIPs) inside and outside of the classroom.
5. The department's contributions to both the Honors and FYE program.
6. The department's curricula revisions leading to more alignment with national trends (e.g. elevation of the Actuarial Science emphasis to an Actuarial Science major & the merging of the applied mathematics and the statistics emphases into one).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Explore the establishment of a Center for Actuarial Excellence. The department of Mathematics Actuarial Science major has experienced rapid growth to the current enrollment of around 100 students. With a commitment to improve the Actuarial Science major curriculum to enhance the professional preparation, the program is close to meeting the designation as a Center for Actuarial Excellence by the Society of Actuaries. This designation would serve as a point of pride for the Department of Mathematics but also add distinctiveness for UW-Eau Claire. The self-study, internal review committee, and external reviewer reports indicate that this designation requires an increase in actuarial science research output. However, given the current workload of existing faculty, the program in its current form would not be able to fulfill this requirement. The department and Academic Affairs should discuss available options that would make this designation a reality. These options might include an additional FTE in this area and/or a broader discussion on models of workload distribution to provide department's flexibility in faculty re-assignment time for scholarly activity.

Summary Recommendation:

The Department of Mathematics is doing a great job in providing a distinctive, rigorous, and highly regarded undergraduate program. For the program to continue in these efforts, the APC recommends these immediate actions:

- Explore ways to ensure all High Impact Practices (HIPs) are accounted for in SAM
- Continued exploration of ways to modify delivery of Math 20
- Consider alternative funding stream besides heavy reliance on revenue from MS in Data Science
- Enhanced communication with ARCC regarding all majors in Mathematics being clustered together, especially Math Education majors with other Math clusters in ARCC
- Development of a department leadership succession plan to ensure continuity and maintenance of excellence in program offerings
- Explore and create workload flexibility for increasing scholarly activity and immersion opportunities

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

Cc.

Dr. Alex Smith, Chair, Department of Mathematics

Dr. Mary Hoffman, Director of Academic Planning and Assessment