



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

105 Garfield Avenue • P.O. Box 4004 • Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004

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 English

The Academic Policies Committee (APC) appreciates the time and effort of Chair, Erica Benson of the Department of English, the members of the Internal Review Committee (Jeff Goodman, Greg Kocken, & Louisa Rice) and the external reviewer (Dr. Karin Westman) for the review of the Department of English. 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 English is to be commended for the following:

1. The department's implementation of rigorous assessment of student learning for courses for the major/minor and for liberal education.
2. The department's creation and continued improvement of the Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing.
3. The department's significant contributions to both the Honors and FYE program.
4. The department's continued contributions to generated SCH.
5. The department's exemplar implementation and commitment to EDI for student and faculty/staff growth.
6. The department's continued commitments to High Impact Practices (HIPs).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. FTE allocation for department's sustainability of Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing. It was evident in the self-study, internal review committee, and external reviewer reports that the current funding streams for the Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing need a more reliable and long-term solution to ensure its quality. The stability of the program is reliant on visiting professors and no-intent-to renew appointments. This program has been described as "a vital program critical to student retention and establishing a foundation for student success in the University's liberal education program." Academic Affairs should consider permanent funding (to base) for a position that will allow for a sustain excellence. Whether this position is a tenure-track line or long-term IAS position should be evaluated and discussed between the department and administration.

2. Strengthen collegiality with UWEC-BC to enhance curriculum offering. According to the department's self-study and internal review committee reports, collaborative efforts are continuously needed to ensure faculty at UWEC, and UWEC-BC are contributing to the offering of the curriculum and can work seamlessly toward common goals. Initial collaborative efforts have resulted in the adoption of a shared curriculum at both locations.

EXCELLENCE: Our measure, our motto, our goal.

Academic Policies Committee

University Senate

Summary Recommendation:

The Department of English 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:

- Maintain commitment to scholarly productivity
- Utilize faculty diversity and EDI expertise as leverage to help recruit and retain students, including students of color
- Consider prioritizing faculty service roles/obligations within and outside of the department
- Enhance communication channels with ARCC
- Explore more innovative ways to provide mentorship to IAS/Visiting Professors
- Reimagine workload usage of faculty involved in graduate program due to its suspension

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

Cc.

Dr. Erica Benson, Chair, Department of English

Dr. Mary Hoffman, Director of Academic Planning and Assessment