

Program Review Committee Report

Department of Health, Physical Education, and Exercise Science

Spring 2009

Mission

The mission statement of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Exercise Science (HPEES) is concise and parallels the University's mission statement. It details the importance of learning, critical thinking, research, and service at both the student and faculty levels.

Goals and Objectives

Three goals from the 2003-2008 review cycle remain essentially the same: improving alumni relations, increasing use of appropriate technologies, and, most notably, acquiring new faculty positions. The remaining goals are modifications of previous goals, largely reflecting changes in the discipline and university (i.e., new applications of HPEES educations, renewed focus on student retention, Washburn Transformational Experience (WTE), etc.). All are in line with increasing the strength and effectiveness of the department.

Statistical Information

The number of student credit hours has hovered around 6,000 for the past 5 years, which is an increase of 7.6% compared to the previous 5-year period. This is more impressive in light of the fact the SCH due to Lifetime Wellness has slowly declined. There is an inconsistency between the number of declared majors and those graduating, which can be explained by longer times to graduation, recent increases in the number of declared majors, and students not officially changing their majors. The number of courses taught by adjuncts has increased over this time period and for the last three years over half of the courses have had adjunct instructors.

Outcome Measures

The department has set many of its goals for different programs based on standards of National Associations, or National Examination scores. Other goals were set with clear objectives (hire new faculty). Of these goals, many have been met or partially met with ongoing work to fulfill them. The goals not met were dependent upon receiving additional support from the University that was not available during this period.

Department Strengths

The strengths listed by the department are numerous. They largely fit into the following broad groups: 1) an increase in majors and student credit hours, 2) highly qualified, active, and student-focused faculty, staff, and adjuncts, 3) multiple programs and concentrations unique to the region or allow for interdisciplinary studies, 4) high standards and quality internships that allow students to perform well on certification exams, 5) good public relations benefitting recruitment, alumni relations, and collaborations across campus.

Department Weaknesses

The department also noted several weaknesses that fall into two main categories: 1) overdependence on adjuncts due to lack of faculty (two unfilled tenure track lines, PE 198 coordinator, certified athletic training faculty), and 2) lack of space (classroom, office, storage, outdoor field space). There are also two new weaknesses listed that do not clearly fit into the two

categories listed above: losing access to SRWC after Whiting renovation is completed and the inability to secure the HPEES office complex.

Changes for the Future

The department requests it be allowed to fill the two vacant tenure track positions and be assigned some of the space in Whiting once the renovation is complete. Additionally, some of the storage concerns could be addressed by placing storage units in PC 125. These changes would alleviate many of the weaknesses listed in the previous section. The department also plans to formalize and set up assessments for the nine general goals listed in the “Future Program Goals” section and consider a name change to align itself with current national trends (thus enhancing chances for external funding).

Rating

Operating at an acceptable level

Recommendation

Continue at current level of activities and resources.

The committee would like to see a progress report in two years only covering the formalized and revised assessments for the nine general goals mentioned in the “Future Program Goals” section.

The Program Review Committee does not concur with the department’s recommendation to continue routine teaching of courses in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center once the Whiting Renovation is completed.