

Parson Construction Management Technology Department

Program Review – April 2, 2013

Overview

The Construction Management Technology Program was reviewed on April 2, 2013, by a team of four individuals representing education and industry. The following SWOT analysis is offered by that team.

CMT Strengths

- The new facilities at the Davis Campus are exceptional.
- The program does an excellent job of using industry expertise as well as financial assistance.
- The industrial experience of the nontraditional evening students is a program strength.
- The current evening program model provides an opportunity for CMT students to achieve their educational goals that these students would not be able to obtain in any other way.
- The construction management program is doing well in outcomes testing.
- The CMT program is accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACEE.)

CMT Weaknesses

- BIM is an area lacking in the curriculum.
- Students mentioned the need for additional help on some of the tougher topics – especially math-related areas.
- The faculty need more on-going training/development opportunities.
- The department budget is not set on hard money, which makes annual financial planning difficult.
- The program is weak in the area of computer curriculum especially with state-of-the-art industry software used in estimating and project management.
- The current COAST promotion and tenure document is not clearly defined according to the interpretation of faculty. Expectations are not clear.
- The CMT department should look at devising a long-range diversity plan.

CMT Opportunities

- The CMT program could take advantage of the many companies represented by current students by using those companies in a marketing campaign.
- The program has a good opportunity to showcase current students who have performed well in the student competitions at the regional Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) BYU Competition and the Region 6 & 7 Competition in Reno, Nevada.

CMT Threats

- Evening programs can be risky to sustain over time because of the drain on faculty. The CMT department needs to look 5 years in the future and plan how to handle changes in faculty who are close to retirement.
- The program is currently spread thin between construction management majors at two campuses: Weber State University and Salt Lake Community College; and two majors: Construction Management and Facilities Management.
- The Salt Lake Community College program is not up to the level necessary to articulate with the Weber State University campus.
- Replacing retiring faculty could be a challenge.

CMT Recommendations

- Faculty need to be able to go into industry to obtain BIM knowledge.
- The program needs to implement state-of-the-art industry software in construction and facilities management.
- In order for the department to have adequate annual budget planning, the department budget should be set at the beginning of the academic year.
- If adequate resources are not available to support SLCC and Weber programs as well as construction management and facilities management, the program must choose what programs can be adequately supported.
- Also, the SLCC campus program must be brought up to the level appropriate for articulation with the Weber State campus program.
- The tenure and promotion document must be clear to new faculty who need to be mentored in this process.

The team enjoyed the opportunity to visit the CMT department faculty, students, support personnel, and dean. Good things are happening for students and for industry because of this program, and the department chair is receptive and aware of the challenges the program faces.

Team Members

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