

May 2, 2012

## **Dean's Response to the Department Review of the Psychology Department**

I appreciate the thought and effort that went into the Department Review Team's report, and the Psychology faculty's self-study and response to the report.

The Review Team found that the Psychology Department is an excellent academic program. It strongly commended the Department's performance in the areas of mission statement, updated curriculum, assessment of student learning, and academic advisement, noting several improvements in these areas in response to the 2006 program review. It found a highly accomplished faculty, dedicated to providing experiential learning opportunities for students, led by an excellent chair, and supported by a very effective secretary. The team's report also found an exemplary relationship with the Department's community partners. I concur in the report's assessment of this accomplished department.

The team's report did share several concerns and recommendations.

- It recommended that the department communicate with the College Rank and Tenure Committee to better inform them about clinically-oriented faculty and the typical products of their intellectual work.
- It recommended that the Department secretary's job description be revised and updated.
- It recommended that the Department develop a 5-year strategic plan. (I will take under consideration the further recommendation that the College develop a mission statement and strategic plan.)
- It recommended that the Department develop a better-defined capstone experience, and give a stronger focus to diversity in the curriculum.

The Department response indicated that all of these recommendations are being acted on, or soon will be -- for instance, by the formation of a Department Diversity Committee.

- The report recommends the formation of an external advisory committee, an idea the Department will discuss.
- It recommends the allotment of some vacant space in the Social Science building to the Department. I will certainly entertain ideas from the Psychology Department, as from others, for effective use of the space.
- It also recommends that the College allot a portion of indirect expense funds to the Department for grants its faculty receive, and more generally, allow the Department to be entrepreneurial. I will take the indirect costs recommendation under consideration, as well as other initiatives that the Department may propose.

I believe that the Review Team report has identified and stressed the very considerable strengths of the Psychology Department, while making a number of useful recommendations. The Department's has shown laudable responsiveness to these suggestions.

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