

Jerry and Vickie Moyes College of Education

Department of Health Promotion and Human Performance

Master of Science in Athletic Training Program Review

Dean's Response

I appreciate all of the work that has gone into this program review. Thanks to the Athletic Training faculty for putting the Self-Study document together, the review team for reviewing the printed materials, taking the time to meet with faculty, staff and students on campus, and for summarizing their findings for the program faculty. The feedback given by the review team members will be very helpful as the Athletic Training faculty continue their ongoing efforts towards program improvement.

Overall the site review team was very complimentary of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program with positive comments regarding the qualifications and expertise of faculty members, the facilities, clear articulation of student learning outcomes and the correlated assessments for those outcomes, and the quality of the clinical sites. I absolutely agree with those comments and recognize the hard work and attention to detail that the AT faculty have demonstrated in developing this new degree and monitoring its quality over the past few years.

Of the areas that were cited by the review team as challenges, I would like to specifically address the Program Director's load, lab access and availability for students, and an area identified in the report as 'focus on graduate student's needs'. I also acknowledge the other challenges that were mentioned in the review provide an assurance that they will be addressed as outlined later in this response.

Athletic training has been the fastest growing program in the Moyes College of Education during my twelve year tenure as Dean. Over that time we have grown from a single degree, unaccredited undergraduate program with one faculty member to a program with two undergraduate majors and a masters degree, all nationally accredited, and, beginning this fall, five tenure track faculty lines. I believe that we have accomplished yoeman's work in developing excellent facilities, both teaching and clinical, developed excellent clinical sites, and have added faculty at an unprecedented rate for a program at WSU. To some degree, as with most growing programs, we have been playing catch-up with resources and I recognize the continued need to develop and obtain the necessary funding stream to ensure a high quality program. I continue to be committed to that goal. The reference to the workload of the program director is clearly linked to the overall growth of not only the graduate program but the undergraduate as well.

I see three factors helping to alleviate this problem: 1) the hiring last year of a new internship coordinator who can assist in some work related to the clinical sites, 2) the addition of a new full-time faculty member starting fall 2014, and 3) utilization of

the Athletic Training Centralized Application Service which will alleviate a great deal of time and energy that the director currently expends related to new student application and screening.

Related to the area identified as “focus on graduate student needs”, I would simply say that WSU has grown from one graduate program in 1990 to twelve graduate programs currently. The need for many of the funding streams, support services, and policies that are routinely in place at graduate institutions have just recently been recognized at WSU, and decisions to develop such supports are being pursued. Just recently, for example, the first university-wide graduate director was appointed. This appointment will increase the focus on, and voice for, graduate education on the campus and many positive changes are sure to come. Nevertheless, some of the areas mentioned in the review could and should be addressed at the college level and we are committed to exploring and when appropriate, taking action on these items.

As mentioned in the program director’s response these challenges along with all other recommendations for improvement by the review team, are either under consideration, many with action plans already in place, or appropriate responses are being considered and will be acted upon by the department faculty over the course of the upcoming academic year. Dr. Turley will collect a full report on decisions made, and actions taken by the program faculty in response to this review and will include it in her 2014/15 department annual report.

As Dean of the Jerry and Vickie Moyes College of Education I am strongly committed to the ongoing support of the Department of Health Promotion and Human Performance and the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program including facilities, faculty, staff, and students.

Again, thanks to all who have contributed to this program evaluation and kudos to the faculty, staff, and chair of the Health Promotion and Human Performance department for all the great work they do and especially Dr. Herzog, Dr. Ostrowski, Dr. Utley and Dr. Donahue for their outstanding dedication to their program and students.

Jack L. Rasmussen, Dean
Jerry and Vickie Moyes College of Education
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