

Jerry and Vickie Moyes College of Education

Department of Health Promotion and Human Performance

Athletic Training and Athletic Therapy Program Review

Dean's Response

I appreciate all of the work that has gone into these program reviews. 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. Because of the curricular overlap of the Athletic Training and Athletic Therapy programs, and the very similar program challenges and/or areas for improvement identified by the review team, I am responding to these two programs together.

The site review team identified the heavy reliance on adjuncts as a program challenge in both Athletic Training and Athletic Therapy. We have seen phenomenal growth in the Athletic Training programs but I feel that we are adding faculty and staff support as it becomes warranted. The number of dedicated faculty positions in Athletic Training has grown from one in 2002 to five, as of Fall 2014. We have also added additional staff support to the HPHP department, including a full time secretary and a clinical supervisor, both of whom are certainly a benefit to the Athletic Training area. Also, as was mentioned in both reports, we do have several, readily available and very well qualified, adjuncts who bring their own real-world professional experience and expertise and make a positive contribution to the program. I am very cognizant of the problems of over-reliance on adjuncts however, and am committed to continued efforts to see that resources for the program both human and otherwise are adequate to ensure a high quality program. Also, on a related point, the possible discontinuance of recognition of the undergraduate AT degree at the national level, could lead to restructuring of our current curricular design and hence impact faculty workload.

The other main challenge that was raised in both program areas had to do with advisement load and advisement support for the program. Several of the comments in the above paragraph also impact advising. For example the addition of an another full-time department secretary, who can help channel advisement appointments appropriately, as well as the increased number of program faculty to deal with professional advisement that is appropriately done by faculty, should prove helpful.

Additional points that I would make are: 1) department level advising at WSU is a relatively new phenomena (less than 20 years) and the university continues to have a well organized, robust central advising division that can and does provide a great deal of admissions, general education, financial aid, and preliminary program advising. 2) a variety of new university software applications related to advisement and degree planning, if properly used, can diminish the pressure on department academic advisors by helping many students plan their own course of studies and free up departmental advisors time for students with more difficult issues including transfer students and students who are switching from other majors. In summary, I recognize the need for quality student advising to ensure that students can and do graduate in a timely fashion and I will continue, along with the department chair, to monitor the advisement function in the HPHP department and specifically as it impacts the Athletic Training and Athletic Therapy programs.

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 Athletic Training Programs 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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