

DEAN's RESPONSE
WSU Department: Construction Management Technology
College: Engineering, Applied Science & Technology
Self-Study fall 2017

(A)Overview:

I appreciate the review of the Construction Management Technology (CMT) department by the review committee and the documents and responses by the CMT department, particularly the department chair. The review seems fair, detailed, accurate, and unbiased. The department appears to be in good shape.

(B)Strengths:

(a)Mission: CMT has bent over backwards in trying to reach out to more students from numerous backgrounds. They are starting to see growth.

(b)Curriculum: The faculty continually updates its offerings.

(c)Outcomes: The faculty continue to strive for effective and useful outcome assessment.

(d)Faculty: The faculty (including world-class adjunct faculty) serve the students well. CMT will likely need to add an engineer (civil, potentially) to their ranks at some point in the future.

(e)Support: CMT has an active and helpful board.

(C)Challenges:

(a,b)Curriculum and Program Support: Civil Engineering and traditional students are growth opportunities. The department is looking at the first for the long-term and pursuing the CMT Center of Excellence for the second.

(c)Student Learning, Outcomes, and Assessment: The faculty are engaged in trying to assess soft-skills. The department is further along than other departments in the college in providing this as part of the instruction in the curriculum.

(D)Recommendations:

(a)Curriculum: I wholeheartedly agree with the review. The department needs to continue increasing technology as both pedagogical tool and instruction in tools of the trade. The department should accelerate implementation.

(b)Standard C, Assessment: I, again, wholeheartedly agree. The use of technology should be interwoven throughout the curriculum. The department agrees.

(c) Standard C, Assessment: I agree with the intent but also recognize the difficulty noted by the department. The need for presentation skills are paramount. I suggest, instead, that more presentations are required for classwork and for a greater percentage of grade and it includes more critical and pointed feedback.

(d)Standard C, Assessment: This relates to (D)(c) above. I urge the department to pursue this.

(e)Standard C, Assessment: This seems like something that could be handled with a pre-req. I urge the department to investigate.

(f) Standard C, Assessment: This is a problem for many students in technology. That they don't see that the capacity to write benefits their eventual job remains an issue. I would like the faculty to take on the challenge of relaying the need for superior communication skills and its role in corporate success. I think this is also an opportunity for industry guest speakers and adjuncts to play a role.

(g)Standard E, Faculty: Agreed. Industry experience is required to teach in this college and updating that industry experience is critical. I believe the department can encourage pursuit of the PhD in some cases as well. If the department had the bandwidth, sabbaticals could play a role in addition to the summers available to faculty since the department doesn't teach classes in the summer.

Conclusion:

The faculty in this program have a great, supportive relationship with their students. They believe in the mission of the university/college/department and demonstrate that on a daily basis. The department has seen an interesting downturn in enrollments. Since the 2008 downturn, the majority of departments in this college have (until recently in some cases) seen considerable increases – almost in direct inverse proportion to the unemployment rate initially and then maintaining those increases on a yearly basis. CMT has seen the opposite. The enrollment is lower now than during the downturn. However, there has begun to be some increase – desperately needed by industry – thanks to the hard work by the faculty in recruiting students. There are some excellent bright vistas ahead for this program and department augmented by the new addition of Interiors and Architectural Design.