

Jerry and Vickie Moyes College of Education

Department of Child and Family Studies

Child and Family Studies Program Review

Dean's Response

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

The Child and Family Studies department has a long history of extensive and successful outreach and collaboration in the community and with their professional counterparts in both public and private settings. I am very pleased, but not surprised, to see this review confirming that this is still the case. In addition, recognition by the team of the department's well-prepared faculty, quality curriculum and well-articulated programs was no surprise. The program faculty and staff are outstanding and are extremely committed to their students and their preparation for graduate school, or career success in the fields they are being prepared for. Dr. Schvanveldt provides outstanding leadership for the department and has a clear vision of priorities for the future.

Alignment of course objectives, assignments, and assessments were identified by the review team as needing some attention and rightfully so as that alignment was already underway and will continue to be a focal point of faculty efforts. As mentioned in the department chair's response, all other recommendations for improvement by the team are either under consideration or will be considered and acted upon by the department faculty over the course of the coming academic year. Dr. Schvanveldt will include a full report on actions taken by the department, in response to this review, in his 2014/15 department annual report.

The team's observation and recommendation under Standard A, Mission Statement, may lead to the belief or conclusion that there is a lot of change going on in the department and that there has been some confusion and unrest accompanying that

change. That would be accurate. The changes really encompass three different areas with the first being changes in personnel, the second being the addition of several new entities affecting the department, and the third being changes in relationships, operating procedures, and oversight of some longstanding department programs. The personnel changes include a fifty percent faculty turnover in the past five years due to retirements, a new department secretary, a new director of the Children's School after 26 years and several new support staff. New entities impacting the department were the WSU Charter Academy Kindergarten and the Boyd K. and Donna S. Packer Center for Family and Community Education. While there were some adjustments of responsibilities and expectations resulting from the opening of these entities, most of the confusion, and might I even say unease, was the result of a very conscious effort on the part of the department chair, associate provost, and myself to change the culture and operating procedures relating to the Melba S. Lehner Children's School. Our desire to affect a drastic change does not reflect negatively on those who were responsible for the Children's School's prior operation, but rather a belief on our part that the primary purpose of the school is as a lab school for department faculty and that the faculty need to be heavily involved in the curricular and programmatic decisions related to its' operation. Change does take time and we are working hard to get everyone on board and rowing in the same direction. I believe that we have made very good progress in this regard over the past year and we will continue to work towards that end.

As Dean of the Jerry and Vickie Moyes College of Education I am strongly committed to the ongoing support of the Department of Child and Family Studies, its' academic programs, faculty, staff, and students.

Again, thanks to all who have contributed to this program evaluation and kudos to the faculty and staff of the Department of Child and Family Studies for all the great work they do.

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