

Physical Education Program's Response to the Review Team Report

by, Chad Smith, James Zagrodnik, Ryan Zimmerman and Mandy Kirkham-King

Introduction

The faculty of the Physical Education program wishes to thank the members of the Review Team for their time and effort spent evaluating our program. The Team “found a robust, well-designed program with clearly defined objectives, assessments, and program improvements” and particularly noted the strong improvements since the 2014 review.

Further, the Team noted several strengths of the program, which in part included: (1) thoughtful curriculum planning aligned with program mission, national and state standards, and program student learning outcomes (SLOs); (2) clear and measurable SLOs; (3) utilization of effective assessment tools to determine achievement of SLOs; (4) excellent faculty, staff, and facilities; (5) improved student advisement; (6) and outstanding quality of instruction.

As a faculty, we have worked diligently to develop a program that we believe best prepares WSU students to become professional physical educators, and we are grateful for the Team's recognition of our work, and for their compliments. However, the Team identified a few concerns and weaknesses; addressing them will help to improve the quality of our program.

Identified Concerns and Weaknesses

The concerns noted by the Review Team are addressed below, along with our responses:

1. *PEP did—according to recommendations from their 2014 review—update and clarify their mission statement. However, what the visitation team was presented in written documentation differed significantly from what was posted on the program's website.*

Response: We agree with the Team's assessment of the program's mission statement, and we will work with IT personnel/support staff to review and update this information on the program website.

2. *PEP did not have data regarding either student employment or efforts to advise PEP students about WSU career services opportunities.*

Response: We agree with this assessment. The PEP faculty and support staff intend to have conversations with WSU career services in an effort to develop better student understanding and knowledge of services available. Furthermore, we will investigate whether WSU career services might assist with collecting post-graduation employment data. In the meantime, the HPHD Department has also initiated an exit survey to graduates that will ask what the graduates major is, if employed, and if so, are they employed in the major. Data regarding student employment will become available following Spring 2019.

3. *PEP faculty and leadership raised concerns about pedagogy overlap and student teaching placements. We recommend collegial discussion take place between the*

HPHP/PEP and Teacher Education program chairs and professional staff to discuss challenges and options for student teaching

Response: We also agree with the above assessment. Initial discussions among PEP and Teacher Education faculty have begun to take place, and we intend to continue to determine how this process may be facilitated in a collegial manner.

Beyond addressing the concerns and recommendations listed above, the Physical Education faculty members, who are mentored at the department and college levels, intend to continue to evaluate the program for purposes of creating efficiency and appropriateness in the curriculum. The program faculty is committed to preparing students (physical educators) who are capable of teaching physical education to meet National Standards; this means that they are highly skilled in teaching all forms of physical activity, not simply team sports. In short, our objective is to prepare physical educators to provide quality physical education.