



WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY
Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities

To: Weber State University Master of Arts in English (MENG) Faculty

10.29.2020

From: Interim Dean, Amanda Sowerby

Re: Dean Response to MENG Self-Study, Reviewers' Report, and MENG Faculty Response

A sincere thank you to the MENG faculty for the input of thoughtful detail, time, and dedication to the Program Review process. Your comprehensive report reflects the care you address in strengths, strategies, and areas of concern for your program and the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities. I would also like to express a special thanks to Dr. David Hartwig (Director of the Master of Arts in English), Dr. Electra Fielding, Dr. Tyson Hausdoerffer and Dr. Valerie Herzog. They generously gave their time to this process.

After analyzing the documents generated for the self-study and reviewing the Master of Arts in English, I want to comment on components that I believe deserve attention.

- 1) As noted by the Review Committee, MENG's Mission Statement highlights the program's strengths of providing a collaborative and academically engaging environment while supporting ample opportunities for learning and growth. MENG faculty welcomed the Review Committee's recommendations to enhance the mission statement by centering on orientation, advising and professional socialization. The advice and increased clarity on the concentration areas will help differentiate the program from others in the region.
- 2) The Review Committee applauded the program's offering of several tracks for degree focus and acknowledged student appreciation for course availability and a timely path to graduation. Committee recommendations include revising tracks into concentrations and certificates, the requirement of MENG 6010 during the first semester and eliminating 5000-level (duel-designation) courses. The faculty are commended for proposed curricular changes such as converting TESOL into a Graduate Certificate, revising Secondary Licensure tracks into concentrations, and adjusting ENGL 6010 offerings. I do support the faculty's thoughtful reply to eliminating the 5000-level (duel-designation) courses. Faculty have considered the necessity of these courses in guiding and supporting new students into the program.
- 3) The program was recognized for the high caliber of student research disseminated nationwide through conferences and publications. The committee did recommend
- 4) implementing assessment and feedback strategies for the emphasis areas. The MENG faculty have built a path toward developing measurable learning outcomes and best

practices in assessment. The program commits to a more consistent approach to highlighting student accomplishments via social media.

- 5) The Review Committee noted that students meet with the administrative specialist and the director to advise on track choices and career planning. Recommendations included a defined advising pathway to promote student success. The faculty agreed that additional training for the administrative specialist would help provide this service until funds for a dedicated MENG advisor are secured.
- 6) The Review Committee acknowledged the leadership strengths of MENG Director Dr. David Hartwig, along with the support of Administrative Specialist Kate Johnson and ENGL Chair Dr. Hal Crimmel. The Committee relayed positive feedback from students regarding mentoring, dedicated faculty and various opportunities for in-college teaching experiences. The Committee also noted the collaborative relationship between the department and the program. A particular area of attention to be addressed is faculty diversity. The program members have articulated the need to increase diversity hires in a meaningful way and to not rely solely on diversifying through adjunct hires.
- 7) Regarding program support, the Committee noted the strength of Administrative Specialist Kate Johnson and her ability to apply her organizational skills and social media talents toward increasing program enrollments. The Committee recommended maintaining the current website as forward-facing. The faculty agreed that an internal site built on Google Sites could provide current program information for active MENG faculty, staff, and students.
- 8) The Review Committee applauded the success of the Wasatch Range Writing Project (WRWP) for the outreach provided to area writers and educators. The Committee suggested finding new and innovative ways to engage alumni and the faculty felt that steps such as ongoing alumni surveying and data collection would prove useful.
- 9) To conclude, the Master of Arts in English is a program committed to student success. This commitment is evident by the dedication of the director, faculty, and staff who provide innovative education to the Master of Arts in English students by preparing them to excel in a complex world.



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