

Program Performance Review: Culmination Meeting Memo
Mathematics BA, MA
Statistics MS

The 2018-2019 Program Performance Review (PPR) process for Mathematics, BA and MA, and Statistics, MS programs concluded with a culmination meeting on March 20, 2020.

The following people attended the meeting: Pamela Oliver (Provost), Mark Filowitz (AVP of Academic Programs, AVPAP), Marie Johnson (Dean, NSM), Sean Walker (Associate Dean, NSM), Alfonso Agnew (Chair), and Su Swarat (Assistant VP for Institutional Effectiveness).

The Provost started the meeting by providing a general overview of the PPR process. She praised the programs for their excellent accomplishments:

- Undergraduate research is strong, and is supported by the department retention, tenure, and promotion (RTP) guidelines.
- RTP process, support, and guidelines appear as strengths within the department.
- Activity of students and of faculty at conferences, in journals, and book publications is very high.
- Highly successful statistics program has grown rapidly with graduates that are highly sought after by employers, and are often securing jobs before graduation.
- Statistics program is innovative in its use of online teaching modality.
- Statistics and the applied math programs include opportunities to work on real-world consulting projects.
- Department collegiality and sense of community are strong.
- Introductory-level curricula have undergone significant change in response to EO 1110.
- Successful hires have been excellent and diverse.
- Maintains a reputation for caring about students and their success.

Major recommendations and issues raised through the PPR process were discussed as follows:

1. Class size:

- The external reviewers and the Dean recommended the department to review class size, taking into account availability and workload of faculty as well as student learning conditions.
- The AVPAP commented that the class size has been a long-term issue which resulted from the financial losses the Math department experienced in the past several years. Increasing class size is the only way to cope with the financial needs. The Chair concurred.

2. Faculty hires:

- The external reviewers and the Dean recommended the department to increase likelihood of successful hires in high demand fields such as statistics, computational applied math, and actuarial science.
- The AVPAP added that the university and the department need to improve how competitive we are for new hires, but acknowledged that the salary could be a challenge.

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3. Administration and shared governance:

- The external reviewers asked the department and the college to strengthen meaningful shared governance practices.
- The Dean explained that this recommendation stemmed from the process through which the math tutoring center and associated space were moved from the department to the college. While the Chair agreed with the move, the Dean acknowledged that wider communication and consultation with the math faculty would have been beneficial.
- The faculty also requested more consultation regarding policy changes such as EO1110. The Provost reported that the CO is aware of this feedback. She agreed that the CO needs to get stakeholders more involved when discussing important policy changes.

4. Graduate applications:

- The external reviewers and the Dean recommended the department to streamline graduate application process to ensure that applications are available for timely faculty review.
- The AVPAP reported that the Office of Graduate Studies will hire another evaluator to facilitate graduate application review. The office is also working with IT to develop graduate student TDA to help streamline the process.

5. Staff hires:

- The Chair voiced the concern regarding the loss of key staff members. The department currently has two open positions, which is about 50% of the staffing. The department needs to hire more staff very soon.
- The Dean, the AVPAP, and the Provost acknowledge the needs. The Chair will work on the hiring process as soon as possible.

6. Computer lab MH-452:

- The Chair expressed the need to redesign computer lab MH-452 to accommodate 40 students, up from its current capacity of 24. Increasing the room capacity can help meet more students' needs, reduce bottleneck, and ultimately save money.
- The AVPAP reported that the estimated cost is \$115-120K.
- The Chair stated that the department has approximately \$100K ASC funds, brought in to support the Applied Math graduate programs. He was informed that since the computer lab is not specifically listed among allowed expenses for the funds, the department cannot access it.
- The Provost will ask the budget staff in her office to look into this issue after spring break.
- The Chair stated that the department would like to complete the construction in the summer, and then work on acquiring equipment next year. He is also open to explore alternative options that may require less funding.

The Provost and the Dean concluded the meeting by thanking the programs for all the wonderful work they have done. The Chair reported that things in general are going very well in the

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department, the faculty and staff work very well together, and the department appreciates the support from the Dean's office and the Provost's office.