

Academic Program Review Council

Minutes of October 11, 2012 2:30-3:20 pm, Swenson 2005

Members Present: Jacobs; Li; Rosenberg; Stocker.

Excused: Iwen (class conflict)

Motion (Stocker/Rosenberg) to approve the minutes of September 27, 2012. **Motion carried.**

Motion (Stocker/Li) to approve the minutes of October 4, 2012. **Motion carried.**

Natural Sciences Review, Chapter 3: Discussion:

The Earth Science responses are to be commended for their organization and level of detail.

p. 42: What would the consequences be if the Earth Science minor was brought online? Would teaching be part of regular load or overload? Is it advisable to add a Geology major here when UMD has one already, when instead we could build on existing strengths such as Environmental Science? Suggestion: track the loss of students over time to show the numbers, and reasons for leaving.

p. 44: Question: How are program missions tied to departmental mission?

p. 46: Chemistry response: suggestion to estimate the number of attendees at events.

p. 47: Earth Science response: A lack of specificity was noted; suggestion to use Biology (p. 48) as a model in the presentation of results.

p. 49: Question: Is there a policy (from the Provost's Office) on how to compensate instructors for capstone/research projects/courses, or how to count them towards load?

p. 50: Comment: Workload concerns are pervasive across campus, not just in Natural Sciences.

Recommend revisions to the Self-Study document:

Chapter 3 is difficult for programs to respond to, in that most programs have no objectives outside student learning (except possibly for research and scholarship); suggestion is to make the questions more explicit and specific.

Other discussion: The chair of the Communicating Arts department suggested that APRC members participate in a webinar on academic program review. Stocker will follow up.

Next meeting: Discussion of NS review, Chapter 4.