

Academic Program Review Council

Minutes of December 6, 2012 2:30-3:20 pm, Swenson 2005

Members Present: Jacobs; Li; Rosenberg; Stocker.

Excused: Iwen (class conflict)

Discussion of Natural Sciences Review Chapter Summaries:

The summaries will be blended into a single document and distributed to all members of the NS Department. It was suggested to frame certain responses in an executive summary as general notes for reference in completing future self-study reports. One such note is suggested to relate campus concerns about finding a proper balance between teaching and research time/resource allocation.

Chapter 1 (Mission): We should include more details in the “Strengths” section.

Chapter 5 (Valuing People): The Council recognizes that departments may have little ability to fulfill the unmet professional development needs of their members.

p.70: Class sizes seem too small in some cases; is there an issue with instructional contact hours? It is suggested that we want intentional curriculum planning, not a proliferation of small upper-division courses; but it is acceptable to balance low-enrollment upper-level courses with high-enrollment general education courses if teaching assignments are equitably distributed.

p. 76: It is suggested to ask for clarification on the term “teaching assistant” (TA): does this term refer to an undergraduate who assists with instruction? If so, this is a violation of our institutional obligations under the federal compliance code which stipulates that an instructor must have a terminal degree or a degree at least one level above that being sought by his/her students.

Next meeting: Jacobs will write up and distribute the combined summaries with our revisions, and include Chapter 6 as well.