

**Program Assessment and Review Council (PARC)
Minutes for Wednesday, May 2, 2007**

Members Present

Judy Strauss, Sabine Reddy, Raymond De Leon, Cecile Lindsay, Michelle Saint Germain, Teri Yamada, Martha Dede, Zvonko Hlousek, Robin Richesson, Kristin Powers, Betsy McEneaney

Guests in Attendance

Joe Magaddino (Economics), Anna Ortiz (Educational Psychology, Administration and Counselling), Marquita Grenot-Scheyer (College of Education)

1. Meeting was called to order by the chair, Zvonko Hlousek, at 2:20 pm.
2. Z. Hlousek presented the UPRC report on the program in Economics. M. Dede chaired the meeting while Hlousek presented. The other UPRC members were Sabine Reddy (PARC) and Wayne Wright (Philosophy, CLA).

Key Points: The review was done a while ago, following a self study completed in 2005. Report authors need to add “consulted university catalog” to the description of the review process. The department has been “opportunistic” in educating an increasing number of students. In 2003-04 there was a tremendous jump in applications to the undergraduate major, primarily as a result of impacted majors in the College of Business. The surge in enrollment has caused some problems, however, especially in advising. However, the department has adjusted by using clerical staff to handle routine advising matters, such as processing program waivers. Another problem is the shift of program enrollment toward upper-division courses, which are typically more expensive to offer.

The department has had difficulty recruiting tenure-track faculty, primarily due to salary/cost of living considerations.

Mathematical Economics and Economic Theory is an option within the BA in Economics that has a very small enrollment. However, both external and internal reviewers agree that the option should be retained since it attracts some of the department’s best students, most of whom go on to graduate study. The graduate program’s largest option is in Developmental Economics, which is international in substance and draws a high proportion of foreign students.

Although more communication is needed with program faculty, the current assessment procedures constitute a good starting point.

Discussion: In response to a question about writing requirements, J. Magaddino noted that the department is developing more capstone courses that require significantly more writing. Regarding relatively low admissions rate to the graduate program, Magaddino explained that many foreign born applicants have low TOEFL scores or weak background in Economics. In addition, math preparation is a problem for many applicants. Addressing a concern about the impact of double numbering of graduate

courses on program quality, Magaddino noted that quite a few of these courses are essentially graduate courses that are numbered also at the 400 level so the strongest undergraduate majors can enroll. There was a question about whether there is a documented need for additional tenure-line faculty. Student Faculty Ratio (SFR) is high, and hiring hasn't kept track with enrollments in the highly popular Business Economics option. It was suggested to change wording in recommendations to cite specific SFR when proposing new hires. Finally, with respect to faculty recruitment, there was a clarification that it is possible to offer Economics faculty higher salaries due to the fact that there is high demand in that area.

Motion to accept Economics self study passed.

Motion to accept UPRC report (with minor amendments) passed.

3. S. Reddy presented the UPRC report on Educational Psychology, Administration and Counseling (EDPAC). Judy Strauss (PARC) was the other UPRC member. A third member, Haldon Anderson (Teacher Education, College of Education) withdrew and did not participate in writing the report.

Key Points: EDPAC has four distinct options (Educational Psychology, Librarianship (formerly School Librarianship), Educational Technology, and Educational Administration). Each option completed its own self study. The MA programs, which are subject to PARC review, are smaller than the credential programs. The Educational Administration program has undergone considerable change in 2006-07 due to new regulations and assessment procedures as well as No Child Left Behind requirements. Educational Psychology is a well established program with an emphasis on advanced research skills, while Educational Technology is a new program with slowly increasing enrollment. The renamed Librarianship option offers preparation for work in K-12, media and other libraries with a much larger credential program.

Data on individual options and with separate counts of MA and credential students are difficult to assemble. For all options, graduation rates are typical for working adults. Program assessment procedures are deemed the most sophisticated in the university. The only major area of concern is the administrative burden to faculty, particularly in small options. Both external and internal reviewers recommend more hiring in all options, although there were 8 searches conducted this year.

Discussion: Report authors noted that they did not have the expertise of the college representative when doing the write-up due to a family illness and sabbatical leave. There was consensus that the timeline of the task is clarified when recruiting college UPRC representatives. In response to a question about high yield for MA programs in EDPAC, A. Ortiz explained that the large credential programs are good recruiting sources for the MA programs. Good staff support and the availability of off-site programs also help. S. Reddy noted that students mentioned the programs excellent reputation. Regarding data issues, the college is making its own database available while Enrollment Services develops a better procedure to code students. Following C. Lindsey's point that funding for new faculty lines comes through the college, there was a suggestion to change

Recommendation #5 to the College/Administration to read: "The College should consider allocating additional faculty lines to fill the programmatic needs of the options."

Motion to accept self study for Educational Psychology, Administration and Counseling passed.

Motion to accept the UPRC report (with minor revisions) passed.

3. Agenda items to address at next meeting:
 - a. Approval of 3/21/07 minutes.
 - b. Approval of 4/18/07 minutes.
 - c. Appoint PARC subcommittee to review reports completed to date.
 - d. PARC calendar.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40.