



MEMO

Date: September 8, 2017

To: Rick Muma, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management

CC: Ron Matson, Dean of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

From: Dennis Livesay, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer

Re: Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures 3-Year Program Review

This review is part of the 3-year review process of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures (MCLL) at Wichita State University. As Dean of the Graduate School, my review will primarily be focused on the Master of Arts in Spanish program. I am impressed by the thoroughness of the review, and agree with the LAS dean's assessment that the attention paid to assessing learning outcomes is commendable.

I am concerned, however, by the disconnect between the assessment process and the curriculum. 'Closing the loop' is the most difficult part of assessment, but is exactly the reason why we do it. Related, the complete lack of exit survey analysis is troubling. In fact, I routinely ask departments to go further and include alumni and employer survey data as well—what a student thinks as he/she graduates can be quite different than after having been employed for 5-10 years. I would encourage the department to develop an alumni survey tool to collect that feedback, and then use that info to inform curricula revisions (where appropriate). Further, focus groups and surveys of employers are another great way of determining how well your graduates are being prepared for professional success.

I would also like to see more discussion of enrollment within the Spanish MA program. The document correctly points out that they are meeting the KBOR degree production minimums, but that should not be our target. With the outstanding work that the department has done in making the program more professionally relevant, I would encourage you to now focus on growing its enrollment significantly, which you have the capacity and opportunity to do.