



MEMO

Date: September 14, 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 Psychology 3-Year Program Review

This review is part of the 3-year review process of the Department of Psychology at Wichita State University. Overall, I am extremely disappointed in both the quality and thoroughness of the review, which has caught me off guard given the strength of the department. I do not need to repeat all of the criticisms from the LAS dean's office, but I will say that I agree with them completely. The complete omission of section 3e-i is particularly bothersome, and many other important sections are only tersely addressed.

It is unclear how the department's review process informs their curricula and priorities. Program review is primarily a retrospective exercise, but meaningful review 'closes the loop' and uses the data to inform and update the curricula. The lack of detail in how learning outcomes are measured makes it impossible to see if/how this is being done. Moreover, learning outcomes are not a per discipline monolith. Program specific differences are needed to make sure that each degree and degree-track are achieving their goals. Finally, the very best program reviews also tell a clear story of where the department is going. This document gives no insight into the major issues that the department will be tackling over the next review period, or how the tracked data will be used to inform those actions.

In addition to learning outcomes, program reviews must also include other types of feedback to inform priorities. This is typically done—at the very least—by analyzing exit survey results, which I view as a bare minimum in needed feedback. The best reviews also survey alumni 5-10 years after graduation to reveal how their training prepared them for professional success. Yes, a survey such as this is listed as a goal for the next cycle, but it is so tacked on that I do not see how it fits into a continuous program improvement cycle. Further, some programs also use focus groups and related mechanisms for collecting feedback from frequent employers of the program's graduates. I encourage the department to also embrace these tools during the next review period.