

Faculty Committee on Program Review
Annual Report, Academic Year 2020-21
Sean Nicholson and Kristin Walker

History:

- **1996** - The Faculty Committee on Program Review (FCPR) was created by the Faculty Senate in 1996 to implement periodic external reviews of departments as mandated by President Rawlings. Peter Stein chaired the first committee, which established procedures, guidelines and the review cycle for the entire university.
- **2001** - Stephen Hamilton was appointed as Chair. Under Steve's guidance, the FCPR worked to standardize and streamline the guidelines and procedures, including a revised format for self-studies.
- **2003** - Joanne Fortune became Chair in January 2003. With Joanne's leadership, the committee brought to completion a backlog of over thirty reviews that had accumulated because of late reports by deans and department heads.
- **2005** - Jim Jenkins succeeded Joanne in January 2005, with the challenge of completing the first cycle of reviews and beginning the second.
- **2007** - In September 2007, Brian Chabot was appointed Chair. Under Brian's direction, the schedule for the first cycle of reviews was completed in 2008 and the second-cycle reviews began in 2009. During spring 2009, the FCPR acted in concert with the Provost to temporarily suspend external review site visits both as a budget savings measure and because the immediate financial stress departments were experiencing might perturb the review's intended long-term view.
- **2009** - Cliff Pollock became Chair in September 2009. While reviewers were suspended, all college Deans were interviewed on the strengths and weaknesses of the external review process, and revised guidelines for the self-study were established. External reviews began again in 2012 using these new guidelines.
- **2013** - In December 2013, Geoffrey Coates became Chair. During spring 2015, the Provost approved increasing the regular number of external review team members for every site visit from 3 to 4 reviewers.
- **2016** - In January 2016, Linda Nowak became chair. During fall 2016, the Provost approved increasing (doubling) the honorarium for external review team members for every site visit from \$1,250 to \$2,500 for the chair of the team and from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for the other 3 members of the team.
- **2017** – In July 2017, Anthony Bretscher became chair.
- **2018** – In January 2018, Avery August became ex-officio.
- **2019** – During fall 2018, the Provost approved increasing the number of external review team members by 1 (from 3 to 4 members) for every site visit. On July 1, 2019, Sean Nicholson became chair.
- **2020** – In March 2020, travel restrictions were imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and spring 2020 program reviews were postponed. As travel restrictions were extended, several fall 2020 programs reviews were postponed.
- **2021** – During fall 2020, two reviews were conducted virtually on Zoom. During spring 2021, all reviews were postponed due to COVID-19. University administration would like to continue to conduct program reviews (either entirely or partially) virtually as much as

possible.

- Kristin Walker continues to provide staff support to the committee and to maintain the "historical" record of the reviews.

Academic Year 2020-2021 Accomplishments:

- **Four** FCPR letters to the Provost were completed and sent to the Provost.
- **Two** external review team site visits occurred.
- **Eight** departments are preparing for their site visit and their reviews should be completed during the coming year (Appendix I). In consultation with the Deans and Department chairs, the scheduled date for a few reviews were adjusted to best fit the resource availability of the department. Appendix II summarizes the progress of the first and second review cycles over the past 21 years.

Challenges:

- On June 31, 2021, six members will cycle off the committee, so we will aim to replace them with faculty from Human Ecology, Architecture, and Engineering.
- Due to the 2-year hiatus of program review for budgetary reasons, departmental reorganizations and mergers, hiring of new department chairs, and travel restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some departments are at risk of failing to be reviewed within the desired 10-year window.

Summary: The committee completed a year in which **seven** reviews were active. Of these, **five** reviews were completed and the remaining **two** are awaiting responses from departments/deans. **Ten** departments are in the process of scheduling their site visits.

Due to the 2-year hiatus of program review for budgetary reasons, departmental reorganizations and mergers, hiring of new department chairs, and travel restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some reviews are falling short of being reviewed within the required 10-year window.

**Faculty Committee on Program Review
Appendix I
Summary of 2020-21 Accomplishments**

Active Reviews:

- **Final report sent to Provost, External Review Team visit Fall 2019**
 - Information Science (19-20)
- **Final report sent to Provost, External Review Team visit Spring 2020**
 - Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (07-08, 19-20)
- **Final report sent to Provost, External Review Team visit Fall 2020**
 - Biology, Undergraduate
 - Molecular Biology and Genetics (07-08)

Planned Reviews 2021-2022:

- Performing and Media Arts (02-03)
- Asian Studies (02-03, 08-09)
- Linguistics (98-99, 07-08)
- Communication (99-00, 10-11)
- Animal Science (98-99, 08-09)
- Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (02-03, 11-12)
- City and Regional Planning (01-02)
- Laboratory of Ornithology (99-00, 08-09)

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Appendix II
Reviews Completed, Ordered by Year of External Review Team Visit

1997-1998

Electrical Engineering
Microbiology (Division of Biological Sciences)
Plant Engineering
Rural Sociology

1998-1999

Agricultural, Resource, and Managerial Economics
Animal Science
Bailey Hortorium (Division of Biological Sciences)
Biochemical, Molecular, and Cell Biology (Division of Biological Sciences)
Computer Science
Ecology and Systematics (Division of Biological Sciences)
Fruit and Vegetable Science (Ithaca), Horticultural Science (Geneva)
Genetics and Development (Division of Biological Sciences)
Linguistics
Neurobiology and Behavior
Nutritional Sciences
Plant Biology (Division of Biological Sciences)
Plant Pathology
Physiology (Division of Biological Sciences)

1999-2000

Communication
Natural Resources
Ornithology
Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

2000-2001

Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Anthropology
Biomedical Sciences
CIIFAD
Clinical Sciences
Economics
Education
Einaudi Center
Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture
History
History of Art
Microbiology and Immunology

Psychology
Science and Technology Studies
Sociology
Art

2001-2002

Chemistry and Chemical Biology
City and Regional Planning
Crop and Soil Science
German Studies
Government
Johnson Museum
Music
Policy Analysis and Management
Operations Research and Industrial Engineering

2002-2003

Asian Studies
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Classics
Comparative Literature
Near Eastern Studies
Philosophy
Romance Studies
Textiles and Apparel
Theatre, Film, and Dance

2003-2004

Baker Institute
Cornell University Press
Astronomy
English
Materials Science and Engineering
Mathematics

2004-2005

Applied and Engineering Physics
Design and Environmental Analysis
Earth and Atmospheric Science
Food Science
Physics
Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences

2005-2006

Africana
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Entomology
Family Life Development Center
Law
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Molecular Medicine
Society for the Humanities

2006-2007

Architecture
Electrical and Computer Engineering (1997-98)
Industrial and Labor Relations
Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

2007-2008

Computer Science (98-99)
Cornell Institute for Public Affairs
Developmental Sociology
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Human Development (with Cornell Institute for Research on Children)
Linguistics (98-99)
Molecular Biology and Genetics
Neurobiology and Behavior
Plant Breeding and Genetics
Plant Pathology (Ithaca & Geneva)

2008-2009

Animal Science (98-99)
Applied Economics and Management
Asian Studies (02-03)
Hotel Administration
Johnson Graduate School of Management
Laboratory of Ornithology (99-00)
Psychology (00-01)
Real Estate
Sociology (00-01)

2009-2010

Year one of a two-year suspension of Program Review

2010-2011

Year two of a two-year suspension of Program Review
Communication (99-00)

2011-2012

Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (02-03)
Clinical Sciences (00-01)

History of Art (00-01)
Microbiology and Immunology (00-01)
City and Regional Planning (01-02)
Biomedical Sciences (00-01)

2012-2013

Biological and Environmental Engineering
Economics (00-01)
Systems Engineering
Microbiology (97-98)
Chemistry and Chemical Biology (01-02)
Art (00-01)
Natural Resources (99-00)
Nutritional Science (98-99)
Science and Technology Studies (00-01)

2013-2014

Biological Statistics and Computational Biology
Anthropology (00-01)
Operations Research and Information Engineering (01-02)
Baker Institute and Feline Health Center (03-04)
Molecular Medicine (05-06)
Romance Studies (02-03)
Materials Science and Engineering (03-04)
Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences (04-05)
History (00-01)
Fiber Science and Apparel Design

2014-2015

Psychology (00-01, 08-09)
Music (01-02)
Statistical Science
Government (01-02)

2015-2016

English (03-04)
Food Science (04-05)
Law (05-06)
Mathematics (03-4)
Comparative Literature (02-03)
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (04-05)

2016-2017

Astronomy (03-04)
Applied Engineering Physics (04-05)
Electrical and Computer Engineering (97-98, 06-07)

Entomology (05-06)
German Studies (01-02)
Near Eastern Studies (02-03)
Policy Analysis and Management (01-02)

2017-2018

Classics (02-03)
Physics (04-05)
Human Development (07-08)
Africana (05-06)
Design and Environmental Analysis (04-05)
Civil and Environmental Engineering (05-06)
Computer Science (98-99, 07-08)

2018-2019

Philosophy (02-03)
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (05-06)
Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies (06-07)
Society for the Humanities (05-06)
School of Integrative Plant Science
Industrial and Labor Relations (06-07)

2019-2020

(Program reviews postponed due to travel restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.)
Neurobiology and Behavior (98-99, 07-08, 19-20)
Information Science (19-20)
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (07-08, 19-20)

2020-2021

(Program reviews postponed due to travel restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.)
Biology, Undergraduate
Molecular Biology and Genetics (07-08)

*External review team visit completed, reports pending