Strength of program: The Math program has a well defined Entrance Assessment (MAT 330) and appropriate course of studies divided into two clusters (A and B) where both required and elective courses are balanced. The program clusters and offerings are similar to other institutions in the state. The department’s assessment for post-graduate employment and satisfaction indicate the success the program has had over the review period. The program has equal representation of male and females in the program, although it would have been useful to see how the program compares to other programs nationally or in the state. The increase in the number of majors, particularly in the online program attests to the program’s popularity and strengths. It is clear from tables 24 and 25 that the program has increase dramatically while others have only remained steady or even decreased. The faculty members are well prepared and are active in the field.

Concerns of the Program: The department’s initial assessment shows nearly 40% are inadequately prepared and that the department recommends that students retake the Calculus sequence which few do; this may be an area where the department may wish to explore possible reforms. It may be possible to introduce a refresher course for students who have already taken Calculus and need to have the material reintroduced. This would allow students to not re-take the entire sequence.

Recommendations: The department may wish to become involved in the Community College recruitment plan which will allow the department to increase their recruitment opportunities within the state. The department comments on their retention rate 63% (2 year), 54% (3 years), 53% (4 years) and 50% (5 years) as a function of the 40% who score inadequately prepared in their initial assessment. While I agree with the premise, I think the department may wish to explore how they can capture the inadequately prepared; I would suggest that the department explore some way to get these students to “retake” the Calculus series (see above). The increase in the number of majors in the program indicates that the department is nearing capacity; however, with a review of the General Education program announced this year, I suggest we wait until that review is finished to determine what personnel additions, if any, are needed. The department acknowledges that the development of a Master’s degree may be an option, especially as a means for recruitment and use of teaching assistants.

Follow up: The department will want to ensure that its Learning Outcome Assessment portfolio is fully operational for its review in 3 years. I recommend that they work with the Dean’s office to ensure its timely completion.

CC: Sung, Chung-Hsien
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