To: Harshavardan Bapat, Chair Undergraduate Council  
From: James Ermatinger, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Subj: Psychology Undergraduate review  
Date: January 20, 2012

The Psychology program review, delivered December 14, 2011, is discussed below under several categories, strength of the review, concerns of the review, recommendations, and follows up requirements.

Strength of the Review: The program review has successfully explained its program objectives as aligned with the APA, curricular requirements for its different concentrations: Clinical, Developmental, Educational, Experimental, and Individualized, curricular revision since last program review, student and faculty demographics, student satisfaction with the program, and faculty preparedness. This material indicates that the faculty members are well qualified and prepared to offer a well-defined curriculum to allow students to explore a variety of concentrations with a minimal core of Psy 301 Orientation and Entrance Assessment (0 credits), Psy 302 Research Methods in Psychology (4 credits) and Psy 471 Senior Seminar (4 credits). The department should be commended for the detail in faculty and student successes both in and outside of the classroom through the use of two different surveys which correlate and reinforce their findings. The department has high retention rates and has continued to realize the importance of continuing to strengthen their already strong plan. The department’s high productivity and efficiency is also clearly detailed. The department also offers many of its courses online. The department should be commended for a strong program review that clearly addresses the issues facing the department.

Concerns of the Review: The five areas are interrelated but the low numbers in Experimental are of a concern. While I agree that there is no need to eliminate the concentration since the courses would be taught for other concentrations (p. 50), I do think that the department may wish to examine the core course Psy 303: Statistics in Behavioral Psychology and whether a math course could replace it since Psy 303 does not have a math prerequisite; this would allow a better utilization of college resources and interdisciplinary cooperation. The department maintains three labs (p. 37) but does not relate how they are being used and by whom; I would suggest adding supplemental data and information on these labs showing their current and future use. The department indicates that their entrance requirements are a 2.5 gpa for full admission and a conditional admit for those between a 2.0 and 2.49 who can take 12 hours of 300 level courses (p. 27). The department however does not indicate how the assessment for full admission occurs and whether students are required to keep a 2.5. The department indicates that they “lost” a rotating NIA given to junior faculty for research (p. 53) in 2010; while this is accurate, the Psychology department was the only department in the College to have been given this resource which was “unofficial”. The college currently has competitive NIAs for research open to all faculty members which Psychology faculty can avail themselves which they have. The department suggests that the Dean
make a plan for high enrolled departments to receive an NIA (p. 53); the Dean believes that such a plan should be generated by the department and vetted by the college departments and forwarded to the Executive Committee as per shared governance protocols to ensure full transparency and full discussion.

Recommendations: The department is encouraged to examine the possibility of developing an online degree, perhaps in the Individualized option. This move would further support the need for additional resources which the department has made. The department notes the need for an additional Full Time tenure-track faculty member (p. 44). While the demand is clearly warranted for an additional faculty member, the resources at present are not available at the college level.

Follow up requirement: None at present.

Cc: Marcel Yoder
    Karen Moranski