

External Review of Psychology

University Response to Departmental Responses

March 18, 2009

A meeting was held on March 12, 2009 in room 104 Roy Hall with the following individuals attending: Dr. Thomas Hanson, Dr. Steve Horton, Dr. Lisa Abney, Roni Biscoe, Dr. Virginia Crossno and Dr. Cynthia Lindsey. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Departmental and University responses to the external review of the Psychology undergraduate program conducted by Dr. Randolph A. Smith December 1-3, 2008. Dr. Lindsey, Head of the Department of Psychology provided a status report on the departmental response to recommendations made by Dr. Smith. Subsequent discussion of the departmental responses provided insight on addressing the needs of the program.

The University takes the process of review and the results very seriously. The University will support the department in addressing the recommendations identified in the external review, specifically:

- Develop a 3000 level course, Introduction to Cognitive Psychology, to be taught by a faculty member currently on staff. Offer this course as one of two choices in experimental psychology
- Complete a revised degree plan providing students the option of choosing one course from a menu that includes Learning, Motivation or Cognition. Seek approval of the revised degree plan during the 2009-10 academic year and plan to implement Fall 2010
- Initiate the process of developing two interdisciplinary concentrations in the undergraduate program; one in Forensic Psychology and one to be determined after further review and study
- Use the proposed *APA Guidelines For the Undergraduate Major* when it becomes available to review and rewrite as necessary ELO (Expected Learning Outcomes) and CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan)
- As University funds become available, request approval to advertise and fill two faculty positions; one in experimental psychology and one in clinical psychology
- Address the need for faculty stewards of online courses to receive some compensation for their work by exploring various options, including extra service contracts
- Explore options for improving deficiencies in department facilities by contacting Dr. Vickie Gentry in the College of Education regarding space for research activities; request assistance from Dr. Lisa Abney to work out an agreement with some Departments in Kyser Hall to add Psychology faculty to the user groups for classrooms with technology carts; and continue requesting additional office space in Bienvenu Hall
- Explore opportunities provided through a Federal Grant or the on-campus Student Technology Advisory Team grant (STAT) to acquire necessary equipment for *Smart Classrooms* to be installed in classrooms where Psychology courses are taught
- Utilize information provided by the program review in departmental planning and assessment.

As resources allow, each of the above items will be addressed. It is hoped that the efforts made in this regard will reflect positively during the next scheduled review of the undergraduate program in Psychology.

Cc: Dr. Randall J. Webb
Veronica Biscoe