

2007 MASTER PLAN/PROGRESS REPORT

Educational Support Unit: Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

Person Responsible: Dr. Mark Wygoda

Date Submitted: 28 May 2007

Mission: The purpose of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences is to provide students with the knowledge and skills required for employment in their discipline or advanced study in graduate or professional schools, to advance knowledge through scientific research and serve the disciplines within the department through professional activities, to serve the community in matters relating to the disciplines within the department, and to provide instructional services to students in other areas of study within the university.

Institutional Mission Reference: The Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences supports the institutional mission of offering baccalaureate and specific graduate curricula distinguished by academic excellence by offering quality baccalaureate degrees in Biological Science, Biology Education, Clinical Laboratory Science, Environmental Science, Environmental Science Education, and Radiologic Technology and a graduate degree in Environmental and Chemical Sciences with a concentration in Environmental Science.

Assessment Methods Utilized:

- Student Opinion Survey (SOS)
- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
- Internally-developed Survey
- Faculty Roster
- Annual Performance Review (APR)
- Community Involvement
- Exit Survey/Interview/Exam
- Grant Activity
- Number of Publications
- Participation in MSU Committees/Organizations
- Participation in Professional Committees/Organizations
- Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI)
- Unit Audit
- Data collection via Excel spreadsheet
- Data collection via Access database
- Other - Please describe: _____

Data Repository Location:

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Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 1: Engage in collaborative ventures and campus and community activities which enhance economic development and cultural growth.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>All faculty will serve on department committees</p> <p>Seventy percent of the faculty will serve on college and university committees</p> <p>Seventy percent of the faculty will serve as resource persons for the community</p>	<p>100 percent of the faculty served on department committees. This objective was met</p> <p>18 faculty (78.2 percent) of the faculty served on college and/or university committees. Department faculty served as members or chairpersons of the following committees: Dore Assistantships Committee, MSU Faculty Senate, Radiation Safety Committee, College of Science Technology Committee, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Human Subject Institutional Review Board, McNeese Assessment Team, QEP Faculty Focus Group, QEP Steering Committee, Campus Development Committee, Com-Stem Management Group, Academic Integrity Council, Discipline Committee, QEP/GEAC, University Health Council, Commencement Committee, Health Sciences Initiative Review Committee, Inter-College GIS Working Group, Student Recruitment Team, Dietetics Advisory Committee, Director of University Police Search Committee, Addictive Behaviors Counselor Search Committee</p> <p>17 faculty (73.9 percent) of the faculty served as resource persons for the community. Faculty served as members or officers of the following local organizations: Safety Council of Southwest Louisiana, Community Advisory Panel, Calcasieu Estuary Community Task Force, Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Louisiana Environmental Affairs Committee, Region 5 Science Fair, Southwest Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the Calcasieu Parish West Nile Virus Task Force. In addition, faculty gave presentations at local schools and civic events, judged science fairs, and identified organisms and answered scientific questions asked by local residents.</p>	<p>M The current level of collaborative ventures and campus and community activities will be maintained.</p> <p>R A departmental committee was formed to suggest changes to the existing APR, including revisions to the Service Section. A revised APR was submitted to the Dean of the College of Science in Fall 2006.</p>

Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 2: Demonstrate excellence in teaching in order to enhance student recruitment, retention, and graduation.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) will average at least 90%</p> <p>Graduating seniors will indicate they are at least 85% satisfied with their experience in the department</p> <p>All faculty will achieve at least 800 points on the Teaching section of the Annual Performance Report (APR)</p> <p>50 percent of the faculty will attend seminars, workshops, or short courses on topics relevant to teaching or advising</p>	<p>SEI averaged 88.96%. Although this objective was not met, the department average improved 0.62% over that of the previous year.</p> <p>Graduating seniors on average were 92.46% satisfied with their experience in the department. This is an improvement over last year's 89.95% satisfaction level. This objective was met.</p> <p>95.7 percent of the faculty achieved at least 800 points on the Teaching section of the APR. Although this objective was not met, this is an improvement over last year (90.9 percent).</p> <p>9 of the faculty (39.1 percent) attended seminars, workshops, or short courses on topics relevant to teaching or advising. Although this objective was not met, this is an improvement over last year (30.4 percent).</p>	<p>R A departmental meeting was held in Spring 2006 in which the teaching and assessment of critical thinking skills was discussed</p> <p>R A departmental committee was formed to suggest changes to the existing APR, including the inclusion of a Quality Improvement Plan component into the Teaching Component. A revised APR which included a QEP component, was submitted to the Dean of the College of Science in Fall 2006.</p> <p>M The department Head encouraged by memo and will continue to encourage the administration to provide more on-campus seminars, workshops, and short courses relevant to teaching</p>

Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 3: Demonstrate commitment to research and creative and scholarly activity.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>20 percent of the faculty who hold doctorate degrees will publish a refereed journal article, book chapter, or a book</p> <p>20 percent of the faculty who hold doctorate degrees will serve as peer reviewers of manuscripts for journals or grant agencies.</p> <p>50 percent of all faculty will give a professional meeting presentation</p> <p>75 percent of the total faculty will attend at least one professional meeting</p> <p>All faculty will hold membership in at least one professional society</p> <p>50 percent of all faculty will participate in activities of professional societies</p>	<p>Two (13.3 percent) of the faculty holding doctorates published three refereed journal articles. This objective was not met</p> <p>Four (26.6 percent) of the faculty holding doctorates served as peer reviewers for 9 manuscripts. This objective as met.</p> <p>Thirteen (56.5 percent) of all faculty gave a total of 43 professional meeting presentations. This objective was met.</p> <p>Fourteen (60.9 percent) of all faculty attended a total of 50 professional society meetings. This objective was met.</p> <p>21 (91.3 percent) of the faculty hold membership in 86 professional societies. This objective was not met.</p> <p>Eleven (52.4 percent) of the faculty participate in activities of professional societies. This objective was met</p>	<p>M Faculty continue to be encouraged to conduct research, to present their findings at professional meetings, and to submit manuscripts to refereed journals by the department head and by the value assigned to these activities in the faculty annual performance report.</p> <p>R A departmental committee was formed to suggest changes to the existing APR, including revisions to the Research Section. A revised APR was submitted to the Dean of the College of Science in Fall 2006.</p> <p>D More research space has been made available to partially compensate for the loss of nearly all research labs following Hurricane Rita (see Objective 4).</p>

Educational (Support Unit) Performance Objective 4: Utilize resources efficiently and effectively to support the university mission.

<u>Expected Level of Achievement</u>	<u>Actual Data From Assessment</u>	<u>Actions/Decisions</u>
<p>50 percent of the faculty will write teaching-related grant proposals</p> <p>50 percent of the proposals which are submitted will receive funding.</p> <p>50 percent of the faculty who hold doctorate degrees will submit research-oriented grant or contract proposals.</p> <p>50 percent of the submitted research-oriented grant or contract proposals will receive funding</p> <p>Sufficient research space will be available for faculty who conduct research.</p>	<p>18 of the faculty (78.3 percent) submitted 26 teaching-related grant proposals. Twenty one of these proposals had multiple authors. This objective was met.</p> <p>21 of the submitted teaching-related proposals (80.8 percent) received funding. The total amount of funds received was \$836,316. This objective was met.</p> <p>Six (40 percent) of the faculty holding doctorates submitted 18 research-oriented grant proposals. All were single-author proposals. This objective was not met.</p> <p>Ten (55.6 percent) of the submitted research-oriented grant or contract proposals received funding. The total amount of funds received was \$59,480. This objective was met.</p> <p>Ten of the department's 13 research labs are located in the part of Frasch Annex which has been closed since Hurricane Rita swept through the area in September 2005. The three remaining labs are insufficient to accommodate the research needs of the faculty.</p>	<p>M Faculty submission of teaching-related and research-related grant and contract proposals continue to be encouraged by the department head and by the value assigned to these activities in the faculty annual performance report.</p> <p>R A departmental committee was formed to suggest changes to the existing APR, including revisions to the Research Section. A revised APR was submitted to the Dean of the College of Science in Fall 2006.</p> <p>D Three rooms in Frasch Hall which previously served other functions were converted into research labs to increase the number of research space available for faculty use.</p>

Resources Allocated: The Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences allocates resources to maximize teaching, research, and service within the department. Funds from the departmental budget are used to support day-to-day operations of the department (e.g. postage, telephone, supplies for the main and faculty offices, maintenance contracts), to purchase lab supplies, to replace or upgrade equipment as needed (e.g. computers, printers), and to provide for travel (e.g. class field trips, faculty and student attendance at conferences). Additional funds to supply selected lab courses are obtained from separate lab fees paid by students enrolled in these lab courses. The department also maintains three separate MSU Foundation In/Out accounts for donated funds which are used to fund mainly additional equipment and travel.

Space continues to be a problem. Frasch Annex, which houses the department office, seminar room, faculty lounge, several faculty offices, four classrooms, the entire radiologic technology teaching area, the autoclave room, and 11 of the department's 13 research labs, remained completely closed from September 2005 until January 2007 due to Hurricane Rita. In January 2007, however, only the first floor (offices, classrooms, seminar room, lounge, and one research lab) and two areas on the second floor (radiologic technology teaching area and autoclave room) were reopened. Thus, 10 of the department's research labs plus several faculty offices still remain closed. To partially alleviate the space problem, the animal room in Frasch Hall, which had formerly been used exclusively by the Department of Psychology, was converted into a research lab for the department and three other rooms (also located in Frasch Hall), which had previously served other purposes, were converted into combination office/research lab space. Furthermore, the department office and the department head's office were relocated into the W.A.K. Seale Museum. Plans now call for the entire Frasch Annex to be closed again for renovation when money becomes available. For this reason, a decision was made to not relocate the department office and the department head's office back into the Frasch Annex at this time.
