Department of Design

Graduate Program Review

2000-2006

Review Committee

Charlotte Dunham
Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

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Human Development and Family Studies

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Architecture
Program Overview and Vision: Satisfactory

The following is the committee's evaluation based upon the program's vision statement that is contained in their strategic plan.

- Vision Statement #1: Give high priority to research and other scholarly activities.
  
  It will be difficult for the program to meet this goal as long as there is insufficient instructional staff and faculty to cover the large undergraduate teaching demands. The review committee urges that resources be supplied to the program to hire additional faculty, especially those of graduate faculty status.

- Vision Statement #2: Contribute to new knowledge and understanding of societal issues through cooperative, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary efforts.

  We have found limited efforts on the part of the program to create programmatic ties with other disciplines on campus. The review committee would like to urge the program to explore the possibility of these interdisciplinary linkages as a means of recruiting students and extending instructional opportunities for students.

- Vision Statement #3: Seek opportunities to exchange knowledge and ideas with business, industry and communities.

  We have found limited efforts of the program to engage in outreach to business, industry and communities.
Vision Statement #4: Be recognized and valued as an exemplary program in different lines of inquiry.

We have found that the program has been given exemplary recognition for student placement and training. Additional resources in the form of faculty and/or instructors to cover undergraduate courses would help to achieve recognition in other areas.

Faculty Productivity: Good

Strengths:

- Design faculty have high quality and diverse backgrounds and experiences, with a strong national reputation.

Challenges

- Faculty undergraduate teaching loads are large, making it difficult to concentrate on research and scholarship.

- Large teaching loads with limited numbers of graduate faculty make it difficult to offer needed graduate courses and to find time to direct graduate student research.

- Not all faculty in the program qualify for graduate faculty status and two of the three graduate faculty are nearing retirement.

- The program has not started the search for replacement the latest faculty resignation.

- The Dean has not approved replacement of second faculty vacancy.
Suggestions:

- Replace faculty vacancies with faculty who qualify for graduate faculty status.
- Encourage both non graduate faculty to apply for graduate faculty status.
- Explore the possibility of using individuals from the community to teach undergraduate courses to free up faculty to teach graduate courses.

Quality and Quantity of Graduate Students and Graduates: Good.

Strengths

- Faculty have a strong and supportive relationship with graduate students.
- The program has a strong reputation for graduate student training. It was ranked 6th in the nation by the 2006 Almanac of Architecture and Design. The ranking was based on program's reputation based on student training and placement. Many of their graduates are placed in academic settings, including community colleges and a design institute.
- Strong international recruitment of graduate students, which spreads the reputation of the program internationally.

Challenges

- In spite of a strong reputation, enrollments in the graduate program are small.
- Small enrollments mean that classes often don't make, and faculty end up meeting the students' curricular needs by offering individual instruction. This adds to the already overloaded teaching responsibilities.
• The program should improve efforts to enhance the diversity of students, especially the recruitment of minority students.

Recommendations.

• Develop creative strategies for recruiting students. This might include recruiting from already practicing professionals who wish to make a career change and teach in a community college or other academic setting.

• There is a need to update and upgrade the program's web page.

• Consider creating interdisciplinary and/or dual degree programs with other campus programs that have design components such as architecture, health sciences and the social sciences.

• It may help increase diversity if the program would find the resources to fund graduate students from the first semester, rather than in the second year.

Curriculum and Programs of Study: Excellent.

Strengths

• The program requirements are compatible with similar programs in peer institutions.

Challenges

• Course offerings are limited due to lack of graduate faculty.

• Course offerings are limited by lack of student enrollment and the need to offer training through individual instruction.

Facilities and Resources: Good
Strengths

- Adequate studio and classroom space

Challenges

- Need for office space for graduate students, especially graduate student instructors.