

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: February 28, 2007

To: Eric Suess, Chair, Statistics Department

From: Fred Dorer, Interim Provost

Subject: Program Review Summary: Statistics BS and MS Degree Program

The Interim Provost met with the Department Chair, College Dean, Associate Dean, Associate VP for Academic Programs and Graduate Studies, and Professor Ganjeizadeh representing CAPR. The participants had available CAPR's report regarding the program review of the degree programs offered by the Department of Statistics. This meeting focused on several important issues.

As a first comment it needs to be noted that the Department is doing an excellent job. The faculty has a deep commitment to student learning and success. They are responsive and creative in curriculum design, and responding to shifts in the field and student needs. They are exemplary in being committed to giving serious consideration to finding most effective pedagogical approaches for maximizing student learning. And, they take seriously mentoring of students and facilitating their finding employment upon graduation. They keep track of alumni and continue to establish on-going relationships with employers.

#### Assessment of Student Learning

As noted in the CAPR report the department carries out assessment of student learning for the purpose of program improvement. There has been focus on the beginning courses. Since these are service courses to various disciplines student preparation and curricular needs are varied. Moreover, pedagogical approaches are demanding on faculty.

A second area where assessment takes place is the capstone course. This course is being modified to assure sections have only undergraduate students, and not a mixture.

The Statistics Department assessment activities might be a good example to include in CSUEB's WASC Educational Effectiveness Report.

## Faculty Development

The Statistics Department will have hired six new permanent faculty within a period of three years. Senior faculty have/are retiring. It is very difficult to hire temporary faculty, particularly hiring knowledgeable people who will be longer term Lecturers. This has put a priority on bringing inexperienced faculty up to speed on teaching methods, assessment of student learning, departmental and campus culture, and participation in faculty governance. The department has a history of quality teaching and student mentoring. The demands on faculty for understanding pedagogical approaches that address variations in student preparation and interests, especially in the introductory courses, are significant. There is great need for faculty development from the Center for Faculty Development and Academic Affairs is being urged to respond.

## Graduate Student Enrollments

Statistics enrolls a larger number of graduate students because of the range of employment opportunities available to adequately prepared graduates. Some enroll in certificate programs, and a number are unclassified post-baccalaureate students; therefore, actual class enrollments are higher than would have been anticipated from number of students listed as majors. A careful look at assuring those eligible be turned to classified graduate students is probably needed.

## Biostatistics and the Professional Science Major (PSM) Initiative

The Department is encouraged to pursue its plans to implement the Biostatistics major in the graduate program. The Department is interested in pursuing including this major in the CSU System's PSM degree programs, and the Dean and Academic Affairs are supportive of this initiative.

## CAPR Recommendations and the Future

The Department endorses the recommendations contained in the CAPR report and, in fact, is/has been pursuing many of these points. Some additional comments came up during the discussion.

- Faculty Development and mentoring is high priority
- Work will be done by the department in finding additional ways for students to have internship experiences on-campus as well as off-campus.
- There is need to build the software collection. In order to make the program current and attractive, access for faculty and students to current software is high priority.
- While faculty in this discipline have excellent opportunities to gain grant and contract support, and for external consulting, all of which helps keep them professionally current and mentor students, there is a need to balance these activities with the department's teaching needs.

- It is increasingly difficult to hire part-time faculty. There will be continuing attention on developing relationships with qualified professionals who can contribute to the departments needs.

Cc: Michael Mahoney, Provost  
Michael Leung, Dean, College of Science  
Janet Patterson, Chair, CAPR