



Date: December 10, 2014

From: James Houpis, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs
Susan Opp, AVP, Academic Programs and Graduate Studies

To: Michael Leung, Dean, College of Science
Jason Smith, Faculty, Health Sciences B.S.
Lynn Van Hofwegen, Interim Chair, Department of Nursing and Health Sciences
Chris Chamberlain, Chair, CAPR

Subject: MOU Meeting – Health Sciences BS

On December 10, 2014, Michael Leung (Dean, College of Science), Jason Smith (Faculty, Health Sciences B.S., Department of Nursing and Health Sciences), Chris Chamberlain (Chair, CAPR), Susan Opp (AVP, Academic Programs), and James Houpis (Provost and VP, Academic Affairs) met to discuss the 5-Year Program Review for the B.S. degree in Health Sciences and to develop an MOU as required by CAPR.

Health Sciences completed their self-study in 2011-12 and submitted their external review in 2012-13, but the Senate did not pass the CAPR review document until June 2014. Therefore, it is important to note that while the Department completed their review of the B.S. in Health Sciences on time, the information contained in the review is now more than two years old. The MOU meeting served as an excellent opportunity to learn about the modifications that have occurred to the program subsequent to the 5-year program review and any changes to the program that have occurred.

Health Sciences is a program that is growing rapidly; in the last five years, enrollment in the B.S. in Health Sciences has doubled. There are currently four tenured/tenure-track faculty in the program, but the program hopes to hire three new tenure track faculty to start in 2015-16. The addition of new faculty, combined with the recent implementation of professional advisors to assist with advising students in the major, come as welcome relief to a program struggling to meet the needs of their students. Despite these challenges, the faculty in the program have been working to implement improvements and changes to the curriculum to increase rigor, provide more predictability in course scheduling, and ensure that risks are minimized in student placements in internships. The program is commended for these activities and for the planning for semester conversion that they have already undertaken. Nevertheless, the faculty in the program are encouraged to work with the Dean of Science to consider other curricular avenues for alleviating the large number of pre-nursing students who seek meaningful health-related degree programs aside from Nursing. For example, the faculty and/or college might want to consider a B.A. program in Health Sciences or a degree program in a related field such as nutrition.

Finally, some of the faculty in Health Sciences have been leaders and active participants in University-wide assessment activities around the ILOs. The University deeply appreciates such dedicated leaders among the faculty and looks forward to the continued leadership of Health Sciences.

The results of the MOU meeting are as follows:

1. The department will work with the college to consider other avenues such as new or modified degree programs that could ease the heavy burden on Health Sciences to accommodate pre-nursing students who are not admitted to the Nursing program.
2. The department will continue to work toward development of a curriculum on semesters that meets the requirement of the faculty for more rigor, but also provides a clearer, less complex path for student degree completion.
3. The department will continue to assess student attainment of program learning outcomes and to use these results to close the loop to improve student learning, and will report these efforts each year in their annual reports.

The Department of Nursing and Health Sciences is commended for the work of the Health Sciences B.S. faculty in support of engaged student learning and success and for its numerous best practices. CAPR is also thanked for the informative report.

cc: Michael Hedrick
Sophie Rollins