

**Charge from the Academic Program Review for
DEPARTMENT'S SELF-STUDY REPORT
2016-17 Review of the School of Physical Sciences**

Instructions

- *Please limit your self-assessment to 10 single-spaced pages or less (excluding tables).*

SECTION 1: ANALYSIS OF PAST REVIEWS

Briefly characterize the last review of the Department's undergraduate program(s).

- a. What were the key strengths and weaknesses of the program cited by the review committee?
- b. Describe the specific steps that have been taken to respond to the recommendations from the last review of the Department's undergraduate program.

Briefly characterize the last review of the Department's graduate program(s).

- a. What were the key strengths and weaknesses of the program cited by the review committee?
- b. Describe the specific steps that have been taken to respond to the recommendations from the last review of the Department's graduate program.

SECTION 2: ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PROGRAMS

1. **Overview of Department**

- a. Provide a brief history of the Department and a description of its degree programs, and disciplinary specialties, etc. Include a description of any formal interactions with other Departments and/or other units on campus.
- b. Provide a list of all full-time faculty organized alphabetically by rank. Provide information about faculty recruitment and retention since the Department's last review.
- c. Describe the oversight structure of each academic program within the department such as a steering committee, advisory committee, etc.
- d. Comment on the Department's operating budget, staff support, and space/facilities/equipment.
- e. Describe the Department policy on teaching workload for formal graduate and undergraduate courses including information about course release policies for research and administrative service, and any changes in policy since the last review.
- f. What are the strengths of the Department's research programs, and how do the overall research programs compare with top national research programs in the discipline/field?

2. Evaluation of Undergraduate Program(s)

a. Admissions

- i) Describe the Department's success in enrolling high quality students in its undergraduate programs as well as the efforts to recruit them. Describe efforts the Department makes to recruit and retain members of underrepresented groups.
- iii) Comment on the number of Departmental majors and minors. Is it adequate, too few, or too many?
- iv) Describe the criteria for admission into the Department major(s). Are there additional criteria for freshman adopting the Department major beyond the campus-wide criteria? What are the criteria for transfer students who wish to adopt the department major? What criteria or restrictions exist for UCI students in other majors who wish to transfer to the department major?

b. Training

- i) Provide an overview of the Department's undergraduate program(s), curriculum, and degree requirements. Include a sample 4-year course plan.
- ii) Comment on the data in **Table 4** regarding undergraduate class-size statistics and percentage of undergraduate courses taught by year by regular rank faculty. What is the ratio of teaching assistants to student enrollment? Is teaching assistant support adequate?
- iii) What is the average time to degree for the department's undergraduate students? How does it compare with Schoolwide and campuswide majors? If the time to degree is more than other majors in the School what steps have been taken to reduce the time to degree? (Are required courses accessible and offered with sufficient frequency to ensure timely progress toward degree? What does the Department do to provide academic guidance and support for undergraduate majors?)
- iv) Referring to the results of the undergraduate student survey, how would you characterize student satisfaction with the Department's undergraduate programs? What do undergraduate students perceive to be the key strengths and weaknesses of the Department?
- v) Comment on the Department's efforts at professional socialization for undergraduate students. For example, what percentage of students are involved in honors programs, independent study, undergraduate research, small seminars, internships, study abroad, or student chapters of professional societies? List prestigious awards and/or achievements by your undergraduate students.
- vi) Describe how the Department contributes to the education of UCI students not majoring in the Department. What courses are offered as breadth courses for non-majors? What restrictions are placed on non-majors with respect to taking courses offered by the Department?

c. Placement

- i) What can be said about the prospective job and educational opportunities for your Department's undergraduate majors? Provide any data available regarding placement of undergraduate majors in appropriate jobs or graduate programs. What does the Department do to provide career guidance for undergraduate students?

4. Evaluation of Graduate Program

a. Admissions

- i) Describe efforts the Department makes to recruit outstanding graduate students. Describe the Department's success in enrolling high quality students in its graduate programs.
- ii) Describe efforts the Department makes and its success in recruiting and retaining members of underrepresented groups.

b. Training

- iii) Provide an overview of the Department's graduate program(s), curriculum, and degree requirements. Include a sample course plan for each program.
- iv) Comment on the data in **Table 4** regarding graduate class-size statistics and percentage of graduate courses taught by regular rank faculty.
- v) Comment on the data in **Table 4** regarding progress toward degree for graduate students. Describe any efforts made by the Department since the last review to improve time to degree for its graduate students. What else does the Department do to provide academic guidance and support for graduate students?
- vi) Regarding table 10, comment on your Departments' success in providing adequate student support for its doctoral students.
- vii) Based on the graduate student survey and the department's overall experience with graduate students, how would you characterize student satisfaction with the Department's graduate programs? What do graduate students perceive to be the key strengths and weaknesses of the Department?
- viii) Comment on the Department's efforts at professional socialization for graduate students. Does the Department offer professional issues seminars? What does the department do to train teaching assistants? Does the Department provide opportunities for graduate students to present and discuss their research (e.g., brown bags)? Does the Department provide guidance and assistance to students applying for fellowships and grants? Does the Department take any measures to improve/monitor faculty mentoring quality?

c. Placement

- i) Regarding table 13, comment on your Department's success in placing its graduates in appropriate professional settings and academic institutions.

SECTION 3: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

1. Provide an overall evaluation of the current strengths and weaknesses of the Department and suggest a strategic plan for how the research and teaching programs can be improved and how it overlaps with the School's strategic plan. What are the highest priority issues that will be addressed in the Department's strategic plan?
2. If the Department was given additional resources, suggest a strategic plan for how these resources would be used to improve the research and teaching programs.

3. What are the emerging trends in your field nationally in terms of research and teaching specialties? How do your strategic plans for future faculty recruitment, new graduate or undergraduate programs and curriculum revisions fit with those emerging trends?
