

**Charge from the Academic Program Review for  
SCHOOL'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 (copies provided)**

Briefly summarize the key strengths and weaknesses of the School cited by the external review committee since its last review.

- a. Describe the steps taken to respond to the 2006-07 recommendations
- b. If there are instances in which recommendations were not implemented, explain why, and describe plans, if any, to implement these recommendations in the future.

What are the changes that have happened in the School such as new departments, new degree programs, or other structural changes?

- a. To what extent do the growth areas overlap with other Schools, departments and centers?

**SECTION 2: ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PROGRAMS**

1. **Overview of School**

- a. Provide a description of its organization (e.g., departments, interdisciplinary programs, centers and organized research units, graduate degrees or undergraduate minors, etc.).
- b. Provide a chart of the School's administrative organization showing the titles of all funded positions and reporting relationships.
- c. Senate Faculty Governance: Does the School have its own executive committee that reviews course curriculum prior to the Academic Senate? Are the School's Bylaws up to date? If not, what changes need to be made? Attach a copy of the School bylaws.
- d. Describe the extent to which the School is involved in interdisciplinary research, teaching and curriculum? Expand on the strength and weaknesses of these interdisciplinary relationships.
- e. Comment on the Schoolwide strategies for the management and allocation of resources to individual departments (general funds, TA resources, faculty, space, etc.).
- f. Comment on the adequacy of the School's operating budget, staff support, and space/facilities/equipment. List the number of staff positions in each department in each unit (i.e. 5 staff for a Center, 2 staff graduate advisors, 3 administrative staff, etc.)
- g. Comment on the School's strategic plan to improve research productivity and grant funding in individual departments. Describe, for example, the incentives provided to faculty to increase their research activity.

## 2. Undergraduate Program Issues

- a. Describe and evaluate how the School contributes to undergraduate education.
  - i) Recruit & Retain of high quality undergraduate students, including underrepresented minorities.
  - iii) Dealing with issues involved with transfer students (both from outside the School and internal transfers).
  - iv) Describe and comment on the advising staff, and how the School participates in advising and tracking progress of Physical Sciences unaffiliated students.
  - ix) Providing scholarships for undergraduate students.
  - x) Career Services: Providing information about employment and educational opportunities for undergraduates.
- b. What is the impact of the majors not having departmental homes? Who oversees curriculum, and is the oversight as careful as if the major was in a department? Is there a coherent educational experience for students in these majors?
- c. Referring to the results of the undergraduate student survey, how would you characterize student satisfaction with the School's undergraduate programs? What do undergraduate students perceive to be the key strengths and weaknesses of the School?

## 3. Graduate Program Issues

- a. Describe and evaluate how the School contributes to the support of high quality graduate education, specifically financial support and the incorporation of alumni relations.
- b. Referring to the results of the graduate student survey, how would you characterize student satisfaction with the School's graduate programs? What do graduate students perceive to be the key strengths and weaknesses of the School?
- c. Describe the role of postdoctoral fellows in the School.

## SECTION 3: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

1. Describe the School's Strategic plan, how it overlaps with the campus strategic plan, and how the School plans to implement the changes.
2. 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?