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January 4, 2018

To: Lisa Graumlich, Dean, College of Environment

From: David Eaton, Vice Provost and Dean

Rebecca Aanerud, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Planning

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Handwritten signature of Rebecca Aanerud in black ink.

RE: Review of the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs (2016-2017)

This memorandum outlines the Graduate School's final recommendations from the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs academic program review. Detailed comments on the review can be found in the documents that were part of the following formal review proceedings:

- Charge meeting between review committee and administrators (October 20, 2016)
- Self-Study (January 9, 2017)
- Site visit (January 23-24, 2017)
- Review committee report (May 25, 2017)
- School of Marine and Environmental Affairs response to the report (November 1, 2017)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (January 4, 2018)

The review committee consisted of:

David Layton, Professor, UW Evans School of Public Policy and Governance (Committee Chair)

Stephen Gardiner, Professor, UW Department of Philosophy

Sara Curran, Professor, UW Jackson School of International Studies

Thomas Dietz, Professor, Sociology & Environmental Science, Michigan State University

Jeremy Firestone, Professor, Earth, Ocean & Environment, University of Delaware

The School of Marine and Environmental Affairs: Master of Marine Affairs.

Members of the Graduate School Council presented findings and recommendations to the full Council at its meeting on January 4, 2018. A summary of this report, composed by Graduate School Council Members, is attached to this document.

Graduate School Council Recommendations

The Graduate School Council commends School of Marine and Environmental Affairs on the strength of its programs, faculty, and students. After discussion, the Council recommended the following:

- Full academic program review in 10 years (2026-2027)

We concur with the Council's recommendations.

cc: Gerald Baldasty, Provost and Executive Vice President
Patricia Moy, Associate Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs, Office of the Provost
Terrie Klinger, Director, School of Marine and Environmental Affairs
Wesley Henry, Associate Director, Academic Affairs and Planning the Graduate School
Academic unit Review Committee Members
Members of the Graduate School Council
GPSS President

Attachment

University of Washington | Graduate Council

Summary of the review of the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs (SMEA)

Academic Unit Name: School of Marine and Environmental Affairs

Degrees/Certificates Included in the Review: MMA (Master of Marine Affairs) is the only degree currently offered by the unit. There are two tracks for achieving the MMA, a thesis track and a professional (either coursework only or including a capstone project) track. There is discussion about adding a Ph.D., but no formal evaluation took place, given that plans for the Ph.D. are still fluid.

Program Strengths:

1. The program has flourished under the College of the Environment, with growth in the applicant pool, student numbers and course offerings, and the recruitment of energetic and ambitious new junior faculty.
2. The policy-focused, science-grounded program is unique, valuable and well respected.
3. Faculty and students are engaged with real-world problems and with decision makers, including those from governmental units, tribes, the private sector, and NGOs, some of whom serve as affiliate faculty in SMEA. This engagement helps the College of the Environment by providing a nexus for outreach.
4. Student-authored publications have greatly increased and alumni placement is excellent.
5. Significant progress has been made in diversifying both the students and faculty of SMEA.
6. The students express great enthusiasm about the program, and students, faculty and staff have a strong sense of community.
7. SMEA actively reflects on its program as evinced by innovation and rapid responsiveness to suggestions for improvement, for example in the new 500-level courses.
8. The new capstone option is well received.

Challenges and Risks:

1. Although there has been growth in faculty numbers, the unit is still small considering the number of students. Additional hires would provide stability in preserving core strengths and flexibility in pursuing new directions as the program grows.
2. Efforts to recruit students from URM groups are hampered by lack of funding. Working with local tribes presents an opportunity to increase diversity among students.
3. The new 500-level core curriculum should continue to be a focus of foundational training as the unit considers how best to structure it.
4. Whereas strength in marine affairs is the historical asset of SMEA, the environmental component has been added more recently and is as yet not as well defined. The department is actively developing this new area of focus.
5. SMEA might benefit from recruiting more international students, as there is likely to be substantial demand for the MMA degree.
6. The capstone option, valuable as it is, imposes a burden on faculty which could be alleviated by adding a TA or RA.
7. Faculty, staff and students feel that current space for SMEA is inadequate, especially as it develops new strength in environmental policy.
8. The addition of a PhD program is desirable from the standpoint of faculty recruitment but constitutes an obvious challenge for a small unit with a large Master's program.

Areas of concurrence:

The Department and Review Committee were in broad general agreement about program strengths and challenges. There were no areas of disagreement.