



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

Department of Construction Management

December 8, 2017

Dr. Rebecca Aanerud
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Planning
The Graduate School
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Subject: Program Review of the Department of Construction Management

Dear Dr. Aanerud:

The department appreciates the committee's review of our department. We plan to use these helpful recommendations to improve student learning, research production, and service.

Please find our attached response to the review committee report dated November 29, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. J. Bender".

W. J. Bender
Chair Department of Construction Management

Department Response to the Academic Program Review Committee Report of the Department of
Construction management dated November 29, 2017

The department has reviewed the report and we want to express our sincere appreciation to the review committee for their dedication and thoughtful recommendations. The department appreciates the recognition and praise expressed to our students, faculty, staff, and students.

This response follows the format of the report.

1. Are they doing what they should be doing?

Thank you for your recognition of our staff and recognizing all of our efforts.

2. Are they doing it well?

We appreciate these comments and agree with the tenor.

3. How can they make it better?

Communication and Leadership

- Our strategic plan does need to be “living”
- Our strategic plan was reviewed and modified in the autumn of 2015; a “makeover” will be planned to better implement our education and research priorities and help with workload leveling. Better measurable goals will be established and periodically reviewed to ensure the strategic plan becomes “living”

BS degree

- The department is in the process of adding a technology class to spring quarter of the junior year to help prepare students for their internships
- Exit surveys currently exist and are part of our quality improvement plan

MS degree

- The department plans to spend winter and spring quarters 2018 to re-evaluate, develop, and improve the MS program
- We plan to add an exit survey for MS students graduating this spring

PhD degree

- Conversations with the administrator of the PhD program have begun and we plan to formalized specific procedures that affect CM admissions

Research

- As part of our strategic planning and graduate program makeover process, we will set research goals and strengthen the relationship between research and the graduate program
- Currently, faculty teach four classes a year which is one less than the college norm. We feel that this appropriately provides support consistent with our research mission

Facilities

- The department has put resources toward increasing the use of our Sandpoint facility and we plan to continue this effort

Staff

- As the graduate program grows, additional staff will also be needed, additionally we feel a better distribution of advising workloads among faculty is needed
- Grant writing support is needed
- The departmental staff is quite lean especially compared to other CBE departments. However, because of who these staff people are, we are functioning at a high level

Advisory board

- We plan to get our advisory board involved in helping to remake the MS program and develop more awareness and interaction with our MS program

Visibility

- The department is implementing plans to increase our visibility and interaction on campus and within the college

Finances

- Our plan to alleviate financial pressure includes operating more efficiently by leveraging the retirement of highly paid full professor, increasing student credit hours efficiency and growth, and growing advancement opportunities
- All faculty are provided up to \$3000 a year for faculty development and several faculty are holders of endowed titles that offer an additional \$4500 a year for professional development

4. How should the University assist them?

The recommendations in this area are helpful to the department. We will work with the college and university to develop these opportunities.