


College of Arts and Sciences

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MEMORANDUM

To: Daniel Howard, Executive Vice President and Provost
From: Enrico Pontelli, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences & Nancy McMillan,
Department Head, Geological Sciences
Subject: Program Review Action Plan for Geological Sciences
Date: May 2, 2016



Dear Provost Howard,

Interim Dean Pontelli, Dr. McMillan, and Interim Assc. Dean Hubbell met on April 27 to discuss the Geological Sciences Program Review Final Report. Dr. McMillan had prepared a comprehensive response to the external reviewer's suggestions (see attached) and we worked together to determine the below proposed 5 year plan.

It is important to note that the Geological Sciences Department was the first to go through Program Review for the College of A&S and Dr. McMillan and her faculty and staff developed a model Self-Study and their organization and proactive and positive attitude through the entire process is to be commended as well. To be expected the external reviewers found the program to be a "model for success at New Mexico State University and other similar state universities."

Proposed Five Year Plan for Geological Sciences:

(NOTE: external reviewers' suggestions such as tuition waivers for graduate students is beyond the control of the department. Only suggestions that are within the purview of the College and/or department are included)

1-year goals (2016-2017):

- Revise/redirect the "Earth and Environmental Systems undergraduate track." This includes further research into the suggestion that the department create a new "Environmental (Geo)Science undergraduate track." The Department will work on revising the current to track and determine how they can incorporate the reviewer suggestions.
- Create a "Climate Change" Interdisciplinary Program/group. The Department has already began this process. It was not recommended by reviewers yet it will bring together departments across disciplines for research and potentially academic collaborations.

Resume annual meetings between the department heads of Geological Sciences and Physics and the Arts and Sciences Research Dean to discuss space assignments in Gardiner Hall. These meetings were instituted in 2010 when the departments moved into the newly-renovated building to annually assess the space needs of the two

departments and to make changes in space assignments in accordance to needs. The Academic Program Review committee defined several significant space needs, and the Department of Geological Sciences has created a plan to solve which they would like to propose to the Physics Department.

2-5 year goals (2017-2022 - ongoing with 5 years to be the goal for completion):

- Adding 1½ - 2 faculty lines. This would include converting Dr. Emily Johnson from College-Track to Tenure-Track and adding a new paleoclimatologist. Both requests are currently under review in College of Arts and Sciences and if not filled, the department will continue to submit requests when possible.
- Hire a full-time lab technician to help service specialized laboratory equipment
- Continue to address space needs for labs, lab classrooms, and GA space.