

Unit Response to Program Review Committee Report

Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research
College of Business Administration
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The Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research would like to thank the Program Review Committee (PRC) and the two external reviewers, Professors Narayan Bhat and Karen Kafadar, for the time, effort and thought devoted to all the issues related to its program review. We are particularly pleased to note the PRC's recognition of the centrality of ASOR's role to the mission of the College of Business Administration (CBA) and the successes of the departmental faculty in academic programming, research, service and professional outreach. ASOR is in general agreement with the recommendations made by the PRC and will work to implement the recommendations over the next few years. Some general comments on the recommendations from the department are presented below.

1. Research Productivity

PRC's observation that there are differences in research productivity between faculty members in the department is well taken. Some of the differences are due to administrative responsibilities (Chair) or other demanding commitments (Director of Statistical Consulting Center). The other differences are due to the fact that faculty members choose to devote their intellectual energies in different directions at various stages of their careers. We would like to add that all our faculty members are professionally engaged and active and that their productivity should not be measured by the single yardstick of number of publications.

2. External Funding

Seeking external funding for faculty research will continue to be emphasized by the department. The external reviewers have indicated that considering our teaching load and the lack of a doctoral program, the likelihood of receiving external research funding from governmental agencies such as NSF and NIH is low. They endorsed the direction taken by some of our colleagues in submitting joint proposals with their collaborators from more research-oriented programs and universities. We will continue these efforts and hope that our efforts will be successful in the future. The department has had some success in receiving funding from area companies to support graduate students and we will continue our efforts in this direction.

3. Statistical Consulting Center

ASOR enthusiastically supports the recommendation by the external reviewers and the PRC to expand the role of Statistical Consulting Center (SCC) to include clients external to the University on a fee-for-service basis. We will work with the Deans of the Graduate College, College of Arts and Sciences and the CBA and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to make progress on this issue. Our faculty members are eager to participate in projects from external clients in statistics and operations research and to offer the benefits of participating in such projects to our students. When such an expanded role for SCC becomes a reality, we strongly urge that the responsibility for soliciting projects for the SCC from external clients be vested with an individual who possesses the appropriate skills and interests.

4. MSCSOR

The department will take immediate steps to address the issue of admission to the program with the Computer Science Department. Given the annual budget of approximately 5 half-time assistantships, the target of 10 to 12 students for the program presents a challenge. We will work to recruit students to the program more aggressively from the local four-year colleges and to explore other avenues of support for the MSCSOR graduate students from internal and external sources to reach this target. We will also work to attract students from related programs (e.g., MBA, MSAS, MSCS) to the OR courses.

5. Graduate Student Stipend Levels

We are very pleased to note that the PRC is addressing the issue of graduate stipend levels at BGSU. We hope that the Graduate College addresses this issue in the near future.

6. Benchmarking ASOR's performance

We would like to take this opportunity to request some comparative information on ASOR's achievements on various measures (e.g., research productivity, success in attracting external funds for research etc.) considered by the PRC. We believe that the Program Review Committee is in a unique position to provide such comparative information to enable us to benchmark our performance with other departments in CBA and BGSU.

- How does our average of 1.1 journal article per faculty per year compare with other departments in the CBA and BGSU with similar workload and similar program offerings? Is the variability

in research productivity between faculty members unique to our department?

- How successful are other departments in the university with similar workload and without a doctoral degree program in attracting external grants for their research?
- How does our teaching load of three sections each semester compare with other departments in the CBA and BGSU with similar program offerings?