

# Program Action Plan for Economics - WORKSHEET

## Implementation of Program Review Recommendations

Due to Academic Program Planning: October 8, 2014

TWO YEAR PLAN				
DESCRIPTION	RATIONALE/PRGRAM CITATION	DELIVERABLE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
PROGRAM PURPOSE AND UNIVERSITY GOALS				
Reaffirm program learning goals (PLOs) as contained in the catalog and ensure that it appears consistently across all sources, print and web-based.	External reviewers and Amy Wallace seem to have found different PLOs in different places. Econ faculty has review the "official" program learning goals and <del>considered them appropriate</del>	Make sure different outlets refer to the single, approved, and reaffirmed PLO.	MVS School and the units that control what gets posted and is made available on different outlets and website areas.	Standard workload for those responsible for disseminating information in print and on the university's website.
Create a student seminar series	Practical way to support the achievement of our PLOs, disseminate our work, and to reinforce the "identity" of the program as suggested by <del>reviewers and the Provost</del>	Once or twice a semester, conference-like meeting would be set up; students would sign up to present individual or group research projects prepared for a <del>course and further "expanded" under the</del>	MVS leadership and faculty	Standard workload for MVS faculty and staff; collaboration of Facilities staff and other CI units to set up the "mini-conference"
Identify and suggest more economics-related speakers for the MVS Speaker Series	Practical way to support the achievement of our PLOs, disseminate our work, and to reinforce the "identity" of the program as suggested by reviewers and the Provost	More econ-related subjects in the speaker series	AVP and faculty	None
ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT				
Continue to implement and improve program assessment activities introduced in 2013 which focus on knowledge of economic concepts + ability to interpret data and economic <del>analysis and evaluation of economic data</del>	Per the economics PLO, students should apply economic analysis to evaluate everyday decisions and policy proposals; propose viable solutions to practical problems in economics; use empirical <del>data and analysis to evaluate economic problems</del>	Carefully crafted tests applied at the beginning and at the end of each core course. Test results are collected, statistics are produced and analyzed to identify areas for improvement. Strategy <del>for data collection and analysis will be developed</del>	MVS leadership and faculty	More work for faculty and chair. Amy Wallace has offered human support for the collection and processing of test scantrons.
Introduce "the ultimate assessment:" measure to what extent our students are indeed finding work in their field or getting accepted at graduate programs	from our PLO: "Prepare students for employment in a variety of public and private organizations; prepare students for further study in graduate or professional schools. While we can <del>internally assess and subjectively praise</del>	Calculate/estimate the unemployment rate and the graduate school acceptance rate for our graduates	We need the support from the university to collect student information and run student surveys upon graduation, 6-months later, and one or two <del>years after that</del>	A few hours per semester from a staff member at IRB, another at Student Affairs, and MVS staff and faculty.
Continue to implement the plan to increase coordination across sections of the same course taught by different faculty.	External review; Provost and AVP feedback. Course sections can be very different, in scope and workload. More coordination should improve learning outcomes and the sense of fairness as <del>issued by students taking these courses</del>	Common and quantifiable assessment activities; analyses of students performance.	Chair and faculty	Increased workload for faculty and program chair.

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Activate/offer Econ 498 courses - work with students on research, provide credit for service/practical learning	Provost and outside review suggestion; university mission	More Econ 498 sections/offerings	Chair and faculty	Increased workload for faculty
Increase data and article analyses as well as the research content in economics courses	Strengthen students' ability to apply economic concepts, develop critical thinking, build evidence-based arguments, which are embedded in our PLOs	Collect and show syllabi for econ courses showing the activities that will achieve this outcome	MVS leadership and faculty	Increased workload for econ faculty
Create a student seminar series	Practical way to support the achievement of our PLOs and to reinforce the "identity" of the program as suggested by reviewers and the Provost	Once or twice a semester, conference-like meeting would be set up; students would sign up to present individual or group research projects prepared for a course and further "expanded" under the	MVS leadership and faculty	Standard workload for MVS faculty and staff; collaboration of Facilities staff and other CI units to set up the "mini-conference"

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	DEVELOPING RESOURCES TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY			
Develop compelling case for expanding the number of tenure-track faculty as needed to support the MVS School's goal of AACSB accreditation and impact of the quality of the Econ program for	Accreditation should be a basic goal of the MVS School	Hiring proposals – including justifications based on continuous improvement are made to Provost as requested	Chair; AVP; Provost; President	
Streamline committee and service obligations to prioritize direct teaching and assessment activities, especially while we have so few tenure-track faculty relative to the size of our student body	University mission statement; outside program review; campus and departmental faculty meetings	Reduce committee/service requirements, official or otherwise, to ensure that faculty spend at most 30% of their regular working hours on service activities, in line with the RTP process.	Provost; Academic Senate; AVP; Chair	Reduce size of some committees and eliminate others; consider reducing some service activities and shifting others to the responsibility of staff in order to release resources to support the main purpose of the university: teaching
Streamline committee, service, and other obligations to allow for more scholarship activities	Continue to exceed AACSB standards of 3 papers published every 5 years; increase participation at domestic and international conferences; stimulate faculty engagement in other activities that contribute to the updating of their skills, greater interaction with the non-academic world (businesses, government, and international organizations), and visibility of the University.	Increased number and variety of scholarship and professional activities as measured and disseminated in the annual assessment of achievement by faculty	AVP and Faculty Affairs	Smith School already grants one course reassigned time to every tenure/track faculty member each semester. This is a substantial commitment of Smith School resources to encourage research productivity.
	CREATING A LEARNING CENTERED ORGANIZATION/STRUCTURE			
Streamline committee and service obligations to prioritize direct teaching and assessment activities, especially while we have so few tenure-track faculty relative to the size of our student body	University mission statement; outside program review; campus and departmental faculty meetings	Reduce committee/service requirements, official or otherwise, to ensure that faculty spend at most 30% of their regular working hours on service activities, in line with the RTP process.	Provost; Academic Senate; AVP; Chair	Need to reduce size of some committees and eliminate others; consider reducing some service activities and shifting others to the responsibility of staff in order to release resources to support the main purpose of the university: teaching

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