



MEMO

Date: September 11, 2017

To: Rick Muma, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management

CC: Ron Matson, Dean of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

From: Dennis Livesay, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer

Re: Department of Community Affairs 3-Year Program Review

This review is part of the 3-year review process of the Department of Community Affairs at Wichita State University. As Dean of the Graduate School, my review and recommendations will be primarily limited to the Criminal Justice master's program. I am impressed by the thoroughness of this document, especially the revised learning outcome assessment process. With that said, I agree with the LAS dean's concern regarding working to improve student response rates.

In addition, there is no discussion regarding how the outcomes assessment has informed and improved the curriculum. 'Closing the loop' is the hardest part of program review, and more attention to how the data actually informs what is taught and learned is needed to fully utilize the process. Finally, I would like to see more discussion of how learning outcomes vary by track (thesis, non-thesis, or local and community history). Related, I would like to see feedback from alumni (beyond just the Graduate School's exit survey). With that said, I love that you plan to develop a process to get feedback from employers.

There is very little discussion regarding where the department is going. Most of the document is retrospective based on the 'review' nature of the process, and while there are goals and at the end of the document, the best program reviews also present a clear vision going forward. As presented, these goals feel a bit 'tacked on' without sufficient context and do not sufficiently describe next steps.