



## MEMO

Date: September 11, 2017

To: Rick Muma, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and  
Strategic Initiatives  
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 English 3-Year Program Review

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This review is part of the 3-year review process of the Department of English at Wichita State University. As Dean of the Graduate School, my reviews focus only on graduate programs. The program review tells a story of a department that is actively working to make sure that their offerings are aligned with their evolving discipline and WSU. I routinely use English as an example of a department that is doing a very good job of taking a critical look at itself and using that info to guide future efforts. Keep up the good work.

With that said, there is less “big picture” discussion than I would ideally like to see. Yes, there are goals that need to be addressed, but most of the document is retrospective based on its retrospective nature. The most effective program reviews provide a clear vision going forward that helps align actions and efforts. For example, the visions laid out in your pair of Graduate Enrollment Management plans were bold and forward looking, but a similar guiding direction is not present here.

Related, I am very excited that one of your goals is to collect more alumni data. The feedback from a recent graduate is vastly different than someone that has been employed for some time. While difficult to carry out, getting feedback from alumni that have been working for 5-10 years can provide some of the most telling information regarding curricula relevance and effectiveness. In addition, I further suggest that you have focus group discussions with frequent employers of your graduates, who typically bring a different viewpoint. All of this is to say, since you have identified the need to do a better job with assessment, I encourage you to embrace the challenge and adopt a comprehensive model.