

The College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences
DEAN'S RESPONSE - 2016 Academic Program Review
Department of Physics
UMBC

SUMMARY

The external reviewers (i.e., Kenneth J. Voss and George R. Welch) are highly esteemed members within their respective scientific disciplines. Their qualifications include years of experience, expertise, and leadership appropriate to conducting a formal Academic Program Review of the Department of Physics. The external reviewers' report can be summarized as follows:

- **Department** – The department is well run, under strong leadership, and positioned for significant growth in research and reputation.
- **Academic Program** – The academic program is of high quality with acknowledgement of the strong contributions being made by highly effective instructors. The department's educational assessment plan will be an important tool to maintain its effectiveness.
- **Research** – The Atmospheric Physics Program is a unique program that is a distinguishing aspect of the department.
- **Challenges** – The department is in need of additional space, more teaching assistants, and targeted faculty hires.

The external reviewers' report reflects the general opinion of the Dean.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Since Fall 2011, the Department has been well supported with priority hiring (for replacement and growth) by the college, which has resulted in the hiring of six assistant professors (an additional active search approved for FY18) and an additional lecturer. Two full professors have been also added to the department's roster. The physics faculty is a model for diversity. In addition, substantial retention packages have been allocated to retain highly productive faculty. The Dean supports the strategic hiring of faculty members in accord with the recommendation of the department chair and its faculty.

The academic curriculum is under the purview of the department and its faculty. The department embraces assessment as a means to improving student learning outcomes and the quality of its undergraduate and graduate programs.

The needs of Physics is given full and equitable consideration by the College. Additional funding (e.g., teaching assistantships) is requested following the strategic budget planning process. Space needs are addressed through space allocation change requests.