

**Year Three Review Action Plan - Economics**

**May 22, 2019**

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**Part 1 -- Updates and Reflection on Action Items from APR**

Recommendation	DEPARTMENT ACTION	COLLEGE ACTION	PROVOST'S OFFICE ACTION	Action Plan Update
Shift to large lecture courses for introductory and intermediate theory courses. Structured rotation of upper level course offerings.	X			Jumbo sections of ECON 101 and 102 were offered on an experimental basis in Fall 2016 and Spring of 2017. There are no current plans to resume offering these sections since there does not appear to be great unevenness between sections offered by full-time faculty and adjuncts.
Evaluate the potential role of hybrid and online delivery formats for economics courses	X			Hybrid and online formats for selected economics courses have been offered during the regular AY as well as during Summer and Winter session courses. No discussion with the CAHSS Dean's office or the Faculty Development Center has occurred regarding use of hybrid and online formats.
Define Learning objectives for introductory courses and undergraduate degree programs. Update pedagogical methods.	X			Learning objectives for Intro courses have been standardized and are following learning goals set up in 2007-2008. A department learning objectives committee has been doing work starting in AY 2015-16 to define learning objectives for the major. A survey was recently completed mapping out both what courses offered by the department address desired learning objectives for the major and the extent to which graduating seniors have taken courses addressing a particular learning objective.

**Year Three Review Action Plan - Economics**  
**May 22, 2019**

Assigning Advising duties to a full-time lecturer	X	X		A full-time lecturer has taken on advising duties half-time. CAHSS Dean's office has committed to providing full-time professional advisor for Social Science departments in Public Policy Building. Timeline: Fall 2019
Research Enhancement	X			A report on Peer departments with regard to research expectations was submitted in December of 2015 to the CAHSS Dean's office.
Areas of interaction between Econ and Math/Stat	X			Successful application for Sloan Foundation Grant. Plans for follow-up to share staff person with Meyerhoff Scholars program. Also tentative agreement with Math/Stat to share in funding for a part-time instructor to serve as adviser for the actuarial sciences track in Math/Stat.
Faculty Hiring Plan	X	X		Faculty hiring plan was submitted to CAHSS Dean's office in Fall of 2016. Since then, have hired 4 new tenure-track faculty and one lecturer, and are currently completing a lecturer search in accounting. The 4 new tenure-track hires includes the assistant professor hired in AY 18-19 and who will start in AY 19-20. The two lecturer hires are the two accounting lecturers hired in AY 18-19 and who will start as full-time lecturers in AY 19-20.
Enhanced marketing efforts for Department's M.A.program	X			In process. See below
External Communication with Alumni	X			A "donate" link has been added to the Economics Department website. The Economics Department sponsored 3 events at the 2016 50th anniversary celebration: a)career networking event for current students and alums b)an evening reception for Economic Policy Analysis MA alums c)a 50th reunion for all alums and current and emeriti faculty.

**Year Three Review Action Plan - Economics**  
**May 22, 2019**

Develop list of Peer and aspirational departments.	X	X		A department faculty committee prepared a report on peer departments in Fall of 2015. This report was submitted to the CAHSS Dean's office in December of 2015. Dean Casper has indicated that he found this report acceptable.
MOU with Public Policy	X	X		See Below
Consultation on Selection of Next Director of the School of Public Policy	X	X		A senior Econ faculty member served on the Search Committee for the Director of the School of Public Policy in AY16-17.

**Year Three Review Action Plan - Economics**  
**May 22, 2019**

<b>Part 2 -- Current/Ongoing Action Items for YTR</b>				
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT ACTION</b>	<b>COLLEGE ACTION</b>	<b>PROVOST'S OFFICE ACTION</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>
Evaluate the potential role of hybrid and online delivery formats for economics courses	X	X		Possible meeting with CAHSS Dean's office and Faculty Development Center Staff on use of hybrid and online delivery formats during the regular AY.
Learning objectives	X			Define and implement direct summative measures of learning outcomes for the undergraduate major at individual student level. For the introductory accounting courses required of many non-majors, further use of active learning methods will be explored as well as a possible course-redesign of a course for non-majors as well as a separate course for majors. The pedagogical enhancements and redesign of the introductory accounting courses will require a threshold number of full-time accounting lecturers. If the department is successful in its current effort to hire two new full-time lecturers in accounting this should be feasible.
Research Enhancement	X	X	X	Presentations by Senior Econ faculty on publication expectations for junior faculty at faculty meetings in Spring and Fall of 2019.

**Year Three Review Action Plan - Economics**  
**May 22, 2019**

Areas of interaction between Econ and Math/Stat	X	X	X	Further discussion with the Chair of Math/Stat possibly mediated by respective college deans regarding overlapping courses covering data analysis and statistics for Econ and Financial Economics majors. Policies of the Undergraduate Council on requiring letters of support from other departments on new courses will be reviewed by the Dean's and Provost's office. Econ faculty will work and coordinate with academic advisers in Math/Stat and the Meyerhoff scholars program on advising undergraduates majoring in Math/Stat and other STEM fields on course selection for applying for doctoral and post-baccalaureate programs in economics.
Faculty Hiring Plan	X	X		The long-run hiring plan submitted by the department in CAHSS Dean's office in December of 2015 will be revisited in 2019-2020 to allow for recent developments in both the field of economics and UMBC in areas such as data science, computation and behavioral approaches to social science.
Improved internal and external communication with potential students.	X		X	Use Groups function to reach out to undergraduate majors on accelerated Bachelors/Masters program. Work with Graduate School on communication options.
Improved external communication	X		X	Work with Career Center to develop feasible approaches for getting exit info from graduating seniors on future plans and further follow-up. Use of Linked-in as one approach.
Explore relationship with Data Science	X			The Graduate Program Director (GPD) for the Economic Policy Analysis MA program will continue discussions with the GPD for the MPS in Data Science regarding listing courses offered in each program as electives or options for meeting degree requirements in the other program.

**Year Three Review Action Plan - Economics**  
**May 22, 2019**

MOU with Public Policy	X	X		Econ chair will meet with the Dean of CAHSS to discuss terms of an MOU with Public Policy and the range of issues such an MOU would encompass. The CAHSS Dean will work with the School of Public Policy and affiliate departments to develop understandings of the issues involved in their inter-relationships, as part of College-wide discussion of interdisciplinary PhD programs. This will then be followed by drafting an MOU or MOUs between the School and affiliate departments by the end of AY19-20.
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