

**Memorandum of Understanding
2007 Program Review
Economics Department
College of Business and Economics
June 26, 2007**

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Members of the Economics Department faculty and the Dean of the College of Business and Economics met with the Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on June 26, 2007, to review and discuss issues resulting from the Economics Department program review of Spring, 2007. The self-study report by the Economics Department (on file) and the report by the external reviewer, Dr. Steven C. Hackett (on file), were the basis for the discussion. Summary points and an action plan for the Economics Department follow.

Part I. Summary Points

1. The Economics Department offers a set of courses that is large, relative to the number of faculty who teach.
2. The majority of students who enroll in economics courses are from other majors.
3. Students who completed an alumni survey describe the department as friendly, patient, and willing to spend individualized time with students who need help.
4. Economics course pre-requisites have had uneven enforcement when students seek authorization to enroll by exception in the past.
5. Many economics majors are pursuing double majors.
6. Economics faculty, for the most part, pursue a traditional lecture-based pedagogy augmented with timely examples and exercises using internet/computer-based resources.
7. The Economics Department gives the ETS Economics Major Field Exam as part of its assessment of student learning outcomes. Past student scores have fallen at about the average level for 64 participating institutions.
8. Staffing in the department has decreased since 2000, from 4.5 to 2.83 faculty.
9. Total university SSH's taught grew approximately 16% in the five years from Fall, 2001 to Fall, 2006 while the proportion of university SSH's taught by the Economics Department fell 3% in the same length of time. This is because the department's section offerings have remained relatively constant while those in the university have risen. SSH/section in economics has not fallen.
10. The department underwent a major curriculum change in 2001 with the advent of a two-track system for students: "traditional track" and "international track."

11. Lecturers replaced Professors Hahn and Sakai when they moved to administrative positions thus leaving the department without two of its key permanent positions filled.
12. Low salaries for the economics faculty compared to other faculty in the same college and among academic economists in the nation in similar institutions continue to be an issue for the economists, and the department wants this issue addressed.

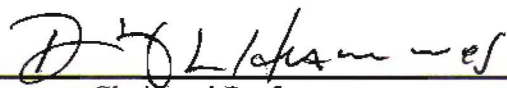

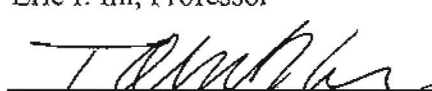
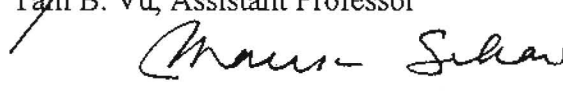
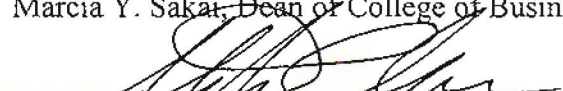
Part II. Plan of Action

1. The Dean of CoBE agrees to have further conversation with the Economics faculty regarding what they would like to see happen to pursue instructional innovation. At least two of three members of the department have expressed interest in professional development opportunities to be trained in new instructional techniques.
2. The Dean of CoBE supports a course release for faculty willing to be trained in innovative teaching strategies provided that departmental SSH's are maintained.
3. The Dean will take under advisement the creation of 4-credit courses with 1 hour of extended lab time for economics majors. Enough students must subscribe to the lab in order to make it feasible.
4. The department agrees to consider adding some additional tracks that link to external programs.
5. The Dean and the VCAA have approved a replacement hire for Dr. Cauley who recently retired.
6. A new hire for the department is supported by the Dean and the VCAA. The search will begin this fall for a person to begin in the 2008-09 academic year. The department agrees to do more research regarding what area of economics this hire should represent.
7. The Dean and the VCAA will support a teaching load model of 2-3 for junior faculty provided that the department agrees to maintain its SSH's.
8. The College does have clearly-stated expectations for tenure and promotion. The Dean agrees to meet individually with new and junior faculty to clarify any areas of uncertainty.
9. The department, Dean, and VCAA all agree that one or more of the future faculty searches will specify an applied economist with interests in community engagement.

10. The department will initiate a request to establish economics as a high demand discipline for review and support by Dean and VCAA with final disposition by Chancellor.

11. The VCAA positively recognized the Department for its implementation of assessment practices and will support additional assessment activities.

11. Signatures

 _____	8-2-07
David L. Hammes, Chair and Professor	Date
 _____	8/22/07
Eric I. Im, Professor	Date
 _____	8/22/07
Tam B. Vu, Assistant Professor	Date
 _____	7/31/07
Marcia Y. Sakai, Dean of College of Business and Economics	Date
 _____	7/31/2007
Stephen Hora, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs	Date