



College of Business

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TO: Jennifer Summit, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

FROM: Yim-Yu Wong, Interim dean of the College of Business (CoB) 

Date: November 28, 2018

SUBJECT: Dean's Review to External Review Report of Economics Seventh Cycle Program Review

I commend the Department of Economics for an exceptional job in the review process. I also want to acknowledge the outstanding leadership Professor Anoshua Chaudhuri provided during this time. I thank the reviewers for a thorough review. Their comments and recommendations are insightful. They point to the quality of the program, the commitment and passion of the faculty, and the satisfaction of the students. I can't agree more with the reviewers. The reviewers offered six recommendations to the Department. The recommendations regarding rebranding, employer survey, improving communication, and refining course offerings will help identify the strengths and better position the programs in the Bay Area. I recommend the Department to prioritize them for implementation.

Recommendations 7 to 11 are directed to the Dean's level.

7. Create additional support for large introductory courses (i.e., Econ 101, 102) – teaching assistants, mentors, etc.

Response: From spring 2017 to present, Economics 101 and 102 have been supplemented by the CoB for and DUEAP with tutoring services. The recent campus-wide Tutoring Operational Review will shed light on the next step. The CoB will collaborate with DUEAP for a campus-wide, concerted tutoring effort. I also would like that Supplemental Instructions to be implemented in these classes.

8. Offer graduate course at CoB's downtown branch to help recruit and retain more graduate students.

Response: While it is a good idea to expand the geographic coverage, the MA in Economics students will be charged a Program Fee, \$700 - \$1,200 per semester in the future when fee collection is approved in the near future. The additional cost may be a deterrence to their interest. If the courses are offered to serve the non-MA in Economics students, the decision has always been left with the Department of Economics, pending availability of faculty.

9. Relax restrictions on use of funds allocated to the professional engagement and productivity of the faculty – especially junior faculty.

Response: The MBA and MSA program Professional Fees supply the Professional Development Fund (PDF) to faculty members on specific uses in research based on a set of guidelines co-developed by faculty and CoB administration. Due to low enrollments in these Programs, funding is already very limited for the needs of approximately 120 T/TT faculty members in the CoB. It is imperative to be

cautiously prioritized in spending. Should additional funding be available, tenure-track faculty members will be given priority. To support faculty, the College already offers competitive research funding awards to meritorious research proposals, as evaluated by faculty-led committees. Faculty members can use the fund from these awards to professional development activities that are not permitted in the PDF usage guidelines. Having said that, the College will support all departments as much as financially possible. I have been working closely with the College of Extended Learning and the Departments to launch and grow self-supported program address faculty needs.

10. Task the CoB Outreach Office with marketing the economics graduate program

Response: There has been collaboration between the College and the Department. Currently, staff and faculty from the Economics Department joined the CoB table at the SF State Graduate Fair to promote the MA in Economics Program to SF State undergraduate students. Additionally, the CoB team brings the MA in Economics brochures when it attends graduate fairs in Northern California. As for promotional materials, Professor Anoshua Chaudhuri, Chair of the Department of Economics, discussed this matter with me weeks before the Program Review team visit. Preliminary actions have been taken place. However, due to the retirement and resignation of two staff members, delay is inevitable.

11. Offer summer research stipends to department faculty

Response: Summer stipends are always included in new faculty hiring package. Same as Recommendation 9, the CoB's research funding is based on the enrollment of the MBA and MSA programs. After budgeting it for the PDF, competitive research awards, research productivity awards, exemplary research awards, tenure-track faculty member summer stipends and course release, accreditation and related activities, and occasional tenure-track faculty member funding requests, the remaining amount will be very limited for tenured faculty members and lecturers. That said, the College will support all departments as much as financially possible. I have also been working closely with the College of Extended Learning and the Departments to launch and grow self-supported program address faculty needs.

The reviewers also offered three recommendations, 12-14, to the university.

12. Allocate additional resources for a new tenure-track line that would allow the current tenure-track faculty to rotate more frequently into introductory courses.

Response: I agree. The Department is already in the process of hiring a new faculty member to join in 2019-2020. Three or more new faculty members are needed to meet the student and program needs.

13. Fund co-curricular events that enhance student experience and faculty scholarship; additional support staff to facilitate high-impact service learning and to provide more effective communication regarding the department's activities and curriculum.

Response: This should be a joint effort between the Department, College and University.

14. Support either reassigned time or a stipend for a graduate director to oversee the MA program.

Response: A month before the review team visit, the College already made an arrangement with the Department to support the Director with a \$5,000 summer stipend to oversee the MA program, increase enrollment of the MA program, develop a new MS in Quantitative Economics program, and possibly a

certificate program. However, I agree with the reviewers that this should be supported by the university, if possible.

I applaud the faculty's dedication to quality education and scholarly achievements. I particularly want to emphasize the importance of senior faculty members' role in promoting a collegial, productive and collaborative culture in the Department. The Department of Economics will be part of the CoB's Association of Advancement Collegiate of Schools of Business 2014-2019 accreditation cycle. I look forward to their contributions to a successful review.