

MEMORANDUM

TO: R. McFarland, Graduate Studies

FROM: W.D. Means, Chairman, Dept. of Geol. Sci.

DATE: April 14, 1983

SUBJECT: Response to 3/10/83 Report of External Program Review Committee

The Department is in general satisfied with the Report of the Review Committee. It recognizes the strength of our programs of teaching and research, and repeatedly emphasizes the need to fill the upcoming vacancy on Peter Benedict's line, or other staff vacancies that may occur.

I respond below to a number of additional points made, in the order of their appearance in the Report.

- p. 4, Recommendation that we fill the Benedict line with someone in soft-rock geology related to Tectonics.

We recognize this as a significant gap that would be desirable to fill. However, we also recognize that high-quality people are hard to find in this field. We consider making an appointment of an A-1 individual even more important than making an appointment in this particular subject-area.

- p. 5, Comment that we need to integrate undergraduates better into the Department.

We agree that this need exists, and have already initiated a request for the necessary extra space and money. Space is needed to provide undergraduates with adequate laboratory and meeting areas. Money is needed for field trip support. Field trips are particularly good ways to foster faculty/undergraduate and graduate/undergraduate student contact.

- p. 6, Suggestion that we provide graduate students with a written annual review of their progress.

This system has already been introduced and was operating before the Review Committee arrived on campus. It is odd that they were led to believe by student interviews that we still needed such a system.

- p. 6, Suggestion that we provide a hand-out detailing mechanics of our graduate programs.

The faculty recognized some time ago that we needed to improve on the miscellaneous policy papers we have generated over the years. A comprehensive Graduate Student Handbook was in preparation before the Review Committee arrived on campus. It will be available to all students by the start of the Fall semester.

R. McFarland
Page Two
April 14, 1983

- p. 7, Suggestion that we assign a Faculty Advisor to new students, or any who have not yet decided upon a Thesis Advisor.

This is another instance of apparently faulty graduate student / Review Committee communication. All incoming graduate students are assigned a Faculty Advisor when they first enroll.

- p. 7, Suggestion that Graduate Student Representatives be welcomed to Faculty Meetings.

We encouraged the graduate students to elect a representative last Fall and made clear the person elected would be welcome to the first part of our monthly staff meetings to air student concerns. A representative was chosen but he has never attended a meeting.

- p. 11, Suggestion that we be given relief for overburdened faculty in Tectonics.

We endorse the suggestion that money be provided for making a temporary, additional, appointment in Tectonics.

- p. 11, Suggestion that we advertise our new strength in Geochemistry.

A request has already been made to the Dean for funds to allow us to prepare a suitable brochure.

WDM/dlp

cc: Dean D. Wulff