From: "Susan Henrichs" <ffsmh1@uaf.edu>
Subject: Re: [Fwd: Re: [Fwd: Re: Fwd: Re: math & statistics unit review]]
Date: Mon, February 23, 2009 1:25 pm
To: "Faculty Senate" <fysenate@uaf.edu>

I agree that they are unusually long, at least in terms of the research section. The rest is closer to the average length. The research section could probably be condensed substantially (>50%) without losing essential information.

However, because (as I understand it) Math declines to make any changes, I'd advise letting these go through. Here is my reasoning: (a) These have been the math criteria for some time. Although we cannot see how the extra verbiage is useful, there is some general value in consistency over time. (b) I do not see anything in the criteria that conflicts with the general (blue book) criteria...conflicts are the main reason that criteria should be turned down. (c) Although the level of detail and justification in the research section is excessive, the 'extra' amounts to a page, or perhaps 1.5 pages. This is not much compared with the 200 pp. files we often get.

Your suggestion of having more detailed internal guidance and less detailed unit criteria is sound, but in this case it is clear that all the extra explanation is really intended for an external audience. That is, mathematicians themselves know that external funding is hard to get, that the average publication rate in their field is lower than in the sciences, etc. So I doubt Math would find this an acceptable alternative.

> Hi Susan,
> Brenda Konar, Unit Criteria committee chair, is wondering if you have any
> advice for them yet regarding the lengthy Math & Stats unit criteria. The
> committee has these unit criteria on hold because they think they are much
> too long, esp. for use by U-wide promotion and tenure committees.
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> (I wonder if Math & Stat might keep the longer version for internal use by
> their junior faculty for whom they claim them to be most useful; and, if
> they might then provide an abridged version that is the formal copy to
> satisfy the needs of the more experienced faculty and P&T committees.)
> Thanks,
> Jayne
>
> ---------- Original Message ----------
> Subject: Re: [Fwd: Re: Fwd: Re: math & statistics unit review]
> From: "Faculty Senate Office" <fysenat@uaf.edu>
> Date: Sun, February 8, 2009 4:41 pm
> To: "Susan Henrichs" <ffsmh1@uaf.edu>
> Cc: fnskl@uaf.edu
> ----------
>
> Thanks. Here is a PDF version of the criteria. (You had made a note on
> them; and this was the copy that I forwarded to the committee originally.)
> Jayne
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>> I have not read the math and stat criteria recently, but, you are
>> correct
>> that there are no length limits for unit criteria. On the other hand, a
>> key purpose of the criteria is to explain unit standards to the
>> campuswide
>> committee, provost and chancellor. Since all of these people have many
>> files to review in a short time, the criteria should be as clear and
>> concise as possible.