

Materials linked from the May 20, 2016 Graduate Council agenda.

Date: 5/5/2016
To: Filtz, Theresa
Cc: Tynon, Jo
From: Lerner, Michael M
Subj: BPP 3-year progress report review

Hi Theresa –

As directed, Jo and I reviewed the BPP 3-year progress report, along with initial reports, and we met with Lynda and John last week.

We have the following summary, let us know if you need something else or want us to attend a meeting.

Happy Thursday!
Mike

Over the past three years, BPP has addressed several items noted in their action plan and made significant advances towards others. A significant portion of the desired changes require resource inputs beyond the control of the unit. In our view, BPP has clearly taken the committee report and action plan seriously and their subsequent actions and current report are fully satisfactory.

The important issue of limited faculty numbers was addressed with three hires, although two retirements during this time resulted in a net gain of only one faculty member. To maintain and expand their strong graduate and research programs, BPP will need tenure-track faculty lines that more than replace the upcoming retirements (estimated at 3-5 positions in the next three years).

BPP continues to look for methods to increase student diversity in the graduate program. There has been growth in the numbers of international students, and the unit continues to make efforts to liaise with the graduate school and to foster student- and faculty-led outreach efforts. Continued work along these paths should be encouraged.

Cordley Hall remains an unacceptable site to conduct leading edge research and education. This outdated facility results in numerous problems – including difficulty in recruiting, added department expenses and, undoubtedly, lower morale. There is no short term solution in sight, although the department works hard to fix critical items as they appear.

The department's efforts, as tracked by SCH, still need to be properly documented. This issue was cited in the original study and report, but problems remain with the visibility of accurate accounting of BPP efforts towards student learning. This should be resolved, by administrative action at a high level if need be.