

# Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Professional Studies (MSE), 2020-2021

**Date:** 2/26/2021

**Invited:** Interim Associate Provost, Joan Cook; Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Matt Vick; Lynn Collet-Klingenberg (Substitute for Dean Robin Fox (Education & Prof. Studies)); faculty and staff in the Master of Science Education - Professional Studies program; Audit & Review Team Chair Tia Schultz; Audit & Review team members, Assessment Director Katy Casey.

## Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- a) The program is going through a transition, as the Higher Education Leadership program separates into its own program and the physical education emphases combine into one kinesiology emphasis. There is a focus on increasing numbers in their cohort model.
- b) The program is working on getting an assessment process going. The outside advisory board got together, but the program has not followed up yet due to the pandemic. The key take-away from the advisory board was that they liked the program's emphasis on writing and thinking deeper and appreciate program options besides education leadership for people who want to advance without going into leadership work.
- c) Over the last few months, the program's council has been discussing what is working and not working and next steps such as course delivery.

## Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – This program provides an important professional development service to K-12 teachers and librarians and seems unique to the region. What is known about the demand and competitiveness of this program? Are there other needs in the field that this program can fulfill to recruit students?

- i) The program is considering an early childhood emphasis extending an existing module program.
- ii) The program has not done a formal survey of demands, but they are working with Laura Montez from Marketing for recruitment of cohorts.
  - (1) The program's biggest success is in the cohort model. It is a C&I emphasis, individualized to meet the needs of school districts. The Mukwonago cohort will be completing in summer 2021 and the Jefferson cohort in December 2021. There is currently some interest from other districts in the region.
- iii) The program is looking into other connections like with the PIE courses.

2 – The program notes that “Higher Education Leadership and Higher Education Athletic Administration, which together account for close to half of the enrollment in the program, are about to be spun off into their own master's program, pending UW System and local curricular approval.” What is the program’s plan to evolve after this split?

- i) This question was addressed, in part, in earlier discussion.
- ii) The split also pulled out most of the students from historically underserved groups. The program is refocusing efforts to address this for the remaining emphases.

3 – Faculty and staff supporting the program have been willing to be flexible and respond to changing instructional modalities to address program enrollment and retention. Moving forward, are there plans for different delivery models?

- i) This question was addressed, in part, in earlier discussion.
- ii) Currently there is an interest and faculty are open. The timing might be right for developing online courses. This could also help increase student diversity.

4 – The program would benefit from a more robust assessment process to guide program decisions. What plans are currently in place to improve assessment procedures?

- a) The program plans to fully implement current assessment plan (which is underdeveloped).
  - i) They currently gather data from capstone. However, getting data from instructors in field is difficult. Instructors in field for cohort model need coaching and support for data collection.
  - ii) The program has a Council with two representatives from each of the three departments that already meets. The Council plans to identify embedded assessments in different emphases to create a program wide way of collecting data. They will identify core courses as a starting point.
  - iii) They will plan their external advisory board. They have names identified and want to meet once a year.

A separate discussion ensued regarding the external advisory board.

## Recommended Actions:

### Recommended Action #1

Formalize an external advisory board of stakeholders in the field and leverage this body for making program change decisions.

### Recommended Action #2

Develop the program vision or plan for the next 5 years.

### Recommended Action #3

Review the program learning outcomes to ensure they are aligned with current offerings. In addition, create a plan to evaluate the learning outcomes and share data on at least two outcomes in the next reporting cycle.

### Recommended Action #4

Determine efficient course schedules for the emphasis areas by focusing on a core set of electives that do not spread interest/enrollment too widely and lead to unsustainable enrollment in courses.

### Recommended Result:

Continuation with minor concerns

### Next Self-Study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

- 1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2029 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2029
- 2 - A progress report will be due October 15, 2022, to the Dean, and November 1, 2022, to the Assessment Office

*For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: [assessment@uww.edu](mailto:assessment@uww.edu).*