

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

College of Health Sciences
Division of Kinesiology and Health
Dept. 3196 • 1000 E. University Avenue • Corbett Building • Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-5284 • fax (307) 766-4098 • e-mail: kinesiology@uwyo.edu • www.uwyo.edu/kandh

January 22, 2021

To: Dr. Rudy Michalak, University of Wyoming Faculty Senate Chair
From: Dr. Tucker Readdy and Dr. John Kambutu University of Wyoming Graduate Council Co-Chairs
Re: University of Wyoming Regulation 2-13 Program Reviews

Dear Chair Michalak,

Please consider the following document as formal communication of the analysis performed by the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council in response to the charge you communicated on 14 January, 2021. The committee consisted of eight individuals, including faculty and graduate students collectively representing all academic colleges except Agriculture and Natural Resources. Members of the committee assessed available supporting documents during the week of 18 January 2021 and deliberated on Friday, 22 January 2021. The consensus of the group is expressed below.

1. Psychology Master of Arts

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council recommend **elimination** of this program for the reasons articulated in the corresponding response document provided as part of the Department Reorganization website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/plans/reorganization/>).

2. Chemistry Master of Science in Teaching

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council recommend **elimination** of this program for the reasons articulated in the corresponding response document provided as part of the Department Reorganization website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/plans/reorganization/>).

3. History Master of Arts in Teaching

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council recommend **elimination** of this program for the reasons articulated in the corresponding response document provided as part of the Department Reorganization website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/plans/reorganization/>).

4. Joint program between Veterinary Sciences and Zoology Departments

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council recommend **elimination** of this program for the reasons articulated in the corresponding response document provided as part of the Department Reorganization website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/plans/reorganization/>).

5. Community Development focus within Agriculture and Applied Economics Master of Science

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council recommend **reduction of investment** in this program for the reasons articulated in the corresponding response document provided as part of the Department Reorganization website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/plans/reorganization/>).

6. Master of Arts in American Studies

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council recommend the **transfer and stabilization this program within the School of Culture, Gender and Social Justice**. The information referred to below comes from the corresponding response document provided as part of the Department Reorganization website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/plans/reorganization/>).

According to the UW 2-13 proposal template, there are eight criteria that can be used to indicate that it is inadvisable to eliminate or disinvest in a program: (a) The unit's programs have achieved and sustained a national or international reputation for quality as indicated by objective external evaluations; (b) The unit's programs have achieved a level of regional strength or are vital for state service; (c) The program is unique within the state and region and contributes to UW's distinctive character; (d) The program is essential for UW; (e) The state has invested heavily in the unit's programs; (f) Elimination would result in a substantially negative impact on education, economic, cultural, and societal concerns in Wyoming; (g) Elimination would result in a significant loss of revenue derived from contracts, grants, endowments, or gifts; and (h) UW has significant capital investments in specialized physical plant, facilities, or equipment that cannot be directed to alternative uses. In addition, the same document articulates President Seidel's themes of "more digital, more entrepreneurial, more interdisciplinary, and more inclusive".

The consensus of the members of the Graduate Council 2-13 Program Review Committee is that **some of the eight criteria** making elimination or disinvestment inadvisable are supported (either in part or in full), providing suitable evidence to suggest that eliminating the program would have negative consequences that meaningfully outweigh possible advantages. Of particular note is the loss of revenue that would occur if the endowment that supports the program were to be returned (i.e., criterion (g)). Moreover, faculty who are part of the American Studies MA also contribute to other academic units that support interdisciplinarity and inclusivity (i.e., African American and Diaspora Studies, Latino/a Studies). Finally, the multiple reports provided on behalf of the MA in American Studies were professional and informative. As such, the members of the Graduate Council 2-13 Program Review Committee recognize the merits of the proposed merger with the School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice, which would allow for potential maximization of the resource represented by the American Studies MA program.

7. Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council recommend **enhancement or stabilization of investment** in this academic unit. The information referred to below comes from the corresponding response document provided as part of the Department Reorganization website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/plans/reorganization/>).

According to the UW 2-13 proposal template, there are eight criteria that can be used to indicate that it is inadvisable to eliminate or disinvest in a program: (a) The units programs have achieved and sustained a national or international reputation for quality as indicated by objective external evaluations; (b) The unit's programs have achieved a level of regional strength or are vital for state service; (c) The program is unique within the state and region and contributes to UW's distinctive character; (d) The program is essential for UW; (e) The state has invested heavily in the unit's programs; (f) Elimination would result in a substantially negative impact on education, economic, cultural, and societal concerns in Wyoming; (g) Elimination would result in a significant loss of revenue derived from contracts, grants, endowments, or gifts; and (h) UW has significant capital investments in specialized physical plant, facilities, or equipment that cannot be directed to alternative uses. In addition, the same document articulates President Seidel's themes of "more digital, more entrepreneurial, more interdisciplinary, and more inclusive".

The consensus of the members of the Graduate Council 2-13 Program Review Committee is that **many of the eight criteria** making elimination or disinvestment inadvisable are supported (either in part or in full), collectively provide ample evidence to suggest that eliminating the program would have negative consequences that meaningfully outweigh possible advantages. Of particular note is how focally the graduate students in the MFA program contribute to the delivery of English 1010 and other courses across campus (i.e., criterion (d)). In addition, there is concern about the loss of revenue that would occur if the endowment that supports the program were to be reduced or eliminated as a result of this change (i.e., criterion (g)). While already committed to interdisciplinarity and inclusivity, the MFA program is positioned to support the digital and entrepreneurial themes of President Seidel through the proposed creation of online degree programs. Finally, the program seems to meet *very few, if any*, of the criteria used to support disinvestment or elimination. Overall, the report provided on behalf of the MFA in Creative Writing was highly organized, informative, and makes a very strong statement regarding the value of the program, its faculty, and graduate students to the University of Wyoming. As such, the members of the Graduate Council 2-13 Program Review Committee recognize the merits of the proposed increase in funding for the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program and believe it should be seriously considered.

8. Merger of Computer Science Department and Electrical and Computer Engineering Department

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council recommend **not merging these two academic units**. The information referred to below comes from the corresponding response document provided as part of the Department Reorganization website (<http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs/plans/reorganization/>).

According to the UW 2-13 proposal template, there are three criteria that can be used to indicate that it is inadvisable to reorganize: (a) Transfer or consolidation would create a program sufficiently uncommon within higher education to negatively impact recruitment and retaining of students and faculty; (b) Restructuring would endanger accreditation status of one or all of the units involved; and (c) Cost reduction would be so modest as to make reorganization pointless.

The consensus of the members of the Graduate Council 2-13 Program Review Committee is that **two of the three criteria** making the merger inadvisable are sufficiently supported. Specifically, criterion (a) and criterion (c) have ample evidence to suggest that combining the two departments would have negative consequences that meaningfully outweigh possible advantages. The members of the Graduate Council 2-13 Program Review Committee recognize the merit of the concerns expressed against this merger while appreciating the stated alternatives.

The members of the 2-13 Program Review Committee of the Graduate Council approve of this report as provided. If you have any questions, please feel free to share them with us accordingly.

Sincerely,



Tucker Readdy, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Sport & Exercise Psychology
Division of Kinesiology & Health
UW Graduate Council Co-Chair, AY 2020-21



John Kambutu, Ph.D.
Professor, Educational Studies
School of Teacher Education
UW Graduate Council Co-Chair, AY 2020-21