



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
Institutional Program Review
Report to the Board of Regents

UNIVERSITY:	USD
DEPARTMENT OR SCHOOL:	Sanford School of Medicine
PROGRAM REVIEWED:	Basic Biomedical Sciences
DATE OF REVIEW:	Spring 2017
TYPE OF REVIEW:	Institutional Program Review

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this report, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

James N. Abbott

1/12/2018

President of the University

Date

1. Identify the program reviewers and any external accrediting body:

- a. H. Dele Davies, MD, Dean of Graduate Studies, Univ. Nebraska Medical Center
- b. Ronald Korthuis, PhD, Chair of Med Pharmacology & Physiology, Univ. of Missouri
- c. Jay Memmott, PhD, Chair of Social Work, USD

2. Items A & B should address the following issues: mission centrality, program quality, cost, program productivity, plans for the future, and assessment of progress.

2(A). Describe the strengths and weaknesses identified by the reviewers

- a. Overall the program was favorably reviewed. Strengths included the engaged faculty, involved leadership, and availability of resources. Core courses were seen as particular strengths of the program. The reviewers felt the program was of high quality, cost effective and faculty and students were productive. It was noted that the program was responsive and highly adaptive and was proactive in planning.
- b. Weaknesses noted by the external reviewers included less than optimal communication between the leadership of Basic Biomedical Sciences and the Division's Graduate Committee, poor integration of faculty and students between the three (Sanford, Avera, and Vermillion) locations for student research, and inconsistent documentation within the program in the areas of student progress and post-graduation success.

2(B). Briefly summarize the review recommendations

- a. The external reviewers made specific recommendations. They can be generalized into five areas where change is needed.
 - i. Refocus or clarify the expectations and authority of some of the faculty committees and informal groups within Basic Biomedical Sciences and how they can coordinate their activities with the Division's leadership,

- ii. Improve the marketing of the programs and courses of Basic Biomedical Sciences to enhance student recruitment and retention,
- iii. Improve internal processes for monitoring student performance, progress, and success,
- iv. Work towards better and more seamless integration of all sites associated with the educational and research programs of Basic Biomedical Sciences,
- v. Develop a regular and rigorous review of coursework offered by Basic Biomedical Sciences to provide assurances all coursework is contemporary and appropriate for the student it is targeted towards.

2(C). Indicate the present and continuous actions to be taken by the college or department to address the issues raised by the review. What outcomes are anticipated as a result of these actions?

- a. Working with the faculty, students, and committees, steps are being taken to ensure open lines of communication within Basic Biomedical Sciences.
- b. Marketing of Basic Biomedical Sciences is being enhanced at all levels and is expected to enhance student and faculty recruitment moving forward
- c. The Basic Biomedical Sciences Graduate Committee is developing a more extensive set of benchmarks outlining student expectations and progress and how this will be monitored. It is expected that the outcome from this action will be enhanced student satisfaction and clearer mentor-student guidance.
- d. A task-force is being created within Basic Biomedical Sciences to develop strategies to better integrate the three research locations within Basic Biomedical Sciences. The expected outcome will be greater collaboration between the three campuses.
- e. A process for review of all coursework offered by Basic Biomedical Sciences is being developed. Core courses for the graduate programs will be reviewed annually with all other courses reviewed every three years. The review of undergraduate courses supporting Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Medical Biology and Medical Laboratory Sciences, and graduate courses supporting Occupational and Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant programs will be reviewed in consultation with the units using the courses in their primary programs of study. The expected outcome should be courses that are contemporary and address the needs of their students and programs.
- f. The Basic Biomedical Sciences Graduate Committee will be charged with developing a more flexible curriculum to prepare our students for the diversity of STEM careers.