

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2007 (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007)

DEPARTMENT OF Economics
Name of Department Chair David Boldt
Name of Person Completing Report David Boldt

1*	Departmental Mission/Vision Statement (<i>url only, required</i>)	http://www.westga.edu/~econ/mission.html
2*	Departmental Statement of Goals, Process to Assess These Goals, and Assessment Results (<i>url only, required</i>)	http://www.westga.edu/~econ/goals0607.htm
3*	Departmental Statement of Curriculum Learning Outcomes, Process to Assess These Outcomes, and Assessment Results for each Degree Program (<i>url only, required</i>)	http://www.westga.edu/~econ/lg_assessments.htm
4*	Statement of Departmental Condition - please indicate the specific strengths and weaknesses of your department.	
	<u>STRENGTHS:</u>	
	<u>Certain strengths remain:</u>	
	<p>Evidence of excellence in teaching---Five of nine faculty attended off-campus workshops devoted to improving the teaching of economics; two faculty published a referred article in an economic education journal; and another three faculty have submitted an article related to online instruction in economics. Mary Kassis was awarded a RCOB Teaching Award for her effective use of "experiments" in her classes.</p> <p>Regional Economic Activities--- The department has presented economic forecast breakfasts each fall since 1997. Approximately 350 individuals attended the 2006 Forecast Breakfast (supported by 13 sponsors or co-sponsors.) This breakfast helps generate travel and other funds for the department. William Smith now directs regional economic outreach efforts of the department. Department faculty made presentations to local organizations such as Haralson County Leadership and the "Great Decisions" study group. Department faculty contributed economic insights that appeared in a number of newspaper articles during 2006-07.</p> <p>International Economics Activities---The department continues to support the International Economic Affairs major. The department now offers ECON 4450 (International Trade) twice a year since this course is now one of the options in the new "international select" business core requirement. Led by William Schaniel, department faculty continue to devote time to recruiting and teaching in the RCOB Economics and Finance Program in London. This program was selected as a finalist for the Governor's 2007 "International Education Award." William Schaniel continues to serve as Director of International Programs at UWG. In addition, he was awarded a RCOB Service Award in 2006 for his contributions in international education.</p> <p>Research Activities--- All tenure-track faculty in the department were "academically qualified" based on RCOB standards, During the 2006-2007, all nine full-time economics faculty attended at least one research conference. Economics faculty presented 15 academic papers at conferences. The eight tenure track faculty were credited with eight peer reviewed publications and 13 non-refereed publications. Economic faculty were also active as discussants, book/article reviewers, and in new submissions to academic journals. Swarna Dutt was awarded a RCOB Research Award in 2006 in recognition of his high level of activity in research.</p> <p>Economic Education Activities--- As evidenced by the many activities of the Center for Economic Education, department faculty provided considerable services to K-12 social studies teachers in the region. Leland Gustafson coordinates the Center's efforts. Additional funding from the Georgia Council on Economic Education (matched by the RCOB and the Department of Economics) allowed for an expansion of activities in 2006-07. The center was involved in six teacher workshops, service on the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for high school economics, and meetings with West Georgia school district curriculum directors. With assistance from the College of Education, the department established an Initial Certification/Post Baccalaureate program in Secondary Economics this past year.</p> <p>Economics Graduates--- The number of graduates with economics degrees has increased sharply in recent years. For the past three years, the department has averaged 24 graduates. In the three year period (2001-2003), the department averaged about 12 graduates per year.</p>	
	<u>Additional strengths:</u>	
	New Faculty Hire: The Department of Economics successfully hired a new faculty member, Hilde Patron. She will join the department beginning August 2007.	
	The exit surveys completed by economics majors (Spring 2007) indicated a strong satisfaction with the economics	

program at UWG. Twenty-eight of twenty nine respondents (97%) evaluated the department in a positive fashion. The most common strengths listed by students were the quality of the economics teachers and the close contact between faculty and students.

WEAKNESSES:

Some of the weaknesses remain:

The full-time lecturer in the department is not yet “academically qualified” according to RCOB standards.

Only two economics major participated in an internship (for academic credit) during 2006-07.

In the exit survey completed by economics majors at the end of the Spring 2007 semester, the most commonly cited weakness of the economics department was the need for more “real life” exposure to economics and the lack of mathematics in the curriculum.

Others have been identified:

OPPORTUNITIES:

Certain opportunities remain:

Expand the regional economic development outreach of the economics department

Expand the number of economics majors

Other opportunities have been identified:

Review (and update, if needed) the curriculum for the various economics degree programs

THREATS:

Certain threats remain:

The department faces a serious salary compression problem. New assistant professors are being brought in at a nine-month salary only slightly below the salary earned at the associate professor level. Some salary compression dollars were allocated to the Economics Department during 2005-06. These dollars eliminated the salary “inversion” problem in the department but did little to reduce the problem of salary compression.

Other threats have been identified:

DEPARTMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

5	Percent of Students passing licensing, certification, or other accreditation examinations related to their chosen field	NA
6	Proportion of graduating students going on to graduate or professional schools	Based on responses of 29 senior seminar students, 14% will be attending graduate school right after graduation, 52% have plans on attending graduate school within a couple of years and 34% have no current plans for attending graduate school.
7	Number of Nationally recognized programs.	NA
8	Number of Endowed chairs and professorships	NA
9	Types of Licensure (please list)	
	NA	

10	How does the department prepare students for Licensure? NA
11	Other notable achievements See Strengths (section 4)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

12	Total Published Research Papers	1 (J. Purkey)
13	Total Presentations	6: J. Purkey (3), R. Cox (1), K. Holder (1), S. Susach (1)
14	Total Internships	2 (V. Dixon and J. Benton)
15	Total Co-ops	0
16	Total Scholarships	8 economic students received Econ/RCOB scholarships. Others scholarships awarded to students include Hope, STARS, GA Commission on Women, Ty Cobb, UWG Presidential, OK State Troopers, Beta Gamma Sigma, and the UWG Foundation
17	Total Fellowships	0
18	Total Students engaged in Funded Research	1 (J. Purkey)
19	Total Students receiving National Awards and/or National Recognition	Two students (R. Cox and S. Susach) presented a research project at the State/National Honors conferences
20	Total Students inducted into Academic Honor Societies	19 students inducted into Omicron Delta Epsilon (Econ Honor Society); 1 student inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma
21	Total Student Programs (debate, cheerleaders, athletic teams) receiving National Recognition	0
22	Other notable achievements by Students	Justin Purkey presented a research paper at the Academy of Economics and Finance Meeting in Jacksonville in February 2007; Mary Holder was the runner up in the "Big Night" science competition; Melanie Griffin received an academic achievement award from the MAP; Sara Susach and Reba Cox presented papers at honors conferences; Varanessa Dixon was selected as the RCOB Student Commencement speaker (December 2006).

FACULTY/STAFF PRODUCTIVITY

Place NA if not applicable or 0 if zero for the year.

TEACHING

23	Total New Course Developments	6
24	Total Faculty Teaching Honors Courses	2
25	Total Faculty traveling Abroad for Teaching Purposes	1
26	Percent of Faculty involved in Academic Advisement	100

RESEARCH/PRODUCTIVITY

27	Total Books and Monographs	0
28	Total Book Chapters	0
29	Total Peer Review Articles	8
30	Total Other Shorter Works	10
31	Total Paper Presentations	15
32	Total Other Presentation	3
33	Total In-House Publications	3
34	Total Juried Exhibits/Performances	0

35	Total Other Exhibits/Performances	0
36	Total Positions Held in Journal Editing/Review	6 (Austin, Schaniel, Smith)
37	Total Faculty involved in Notable Continuing Education Efforts	2 (Smith and Gustafson)
38	Total Faculty traveling Abroad for Research Purposes	0
PUBLIC SERVICE		
39	Total Participants in Honors Organizations	8
40	Total Offices held in Professional Organizations	6
41	Total Advisors of Student Organizations	2
42	Total Participants in Cooperative Consulting Efforts	1 (Smith)
43	Total System-wide/UWG Committee Activities	32 committee/subcommittee assignments
44	Total Participants in Public Service Activities	All full time faculty (9)
45	Other notable achievements by Faculty	
	Examples of noteworthy service activities include S. Dutt (UWG Faculty Secretary), D. Boldt (Program Chair of the Academy of Economics and Finance), W. Schaniel (International Programs), J. Murphy (Faculty Advisor to Omicron Delta Epsilon), M. Kassis (Scholarship Chair, Atlanta Economics Club), W. J. Smith (Regional Economics Work including Fiscal Notes), L. Gustafson (Director of Center for Economic Education) and S. Dutt/D. Boldt (Volunteer advisors for the Excel Center).	
GRANTS/AWARDS		
46	Total Proposals Submitted	11 (6 econ ed., 5 teaching conf. grants)
47	Total Proposals Funded	11
48	Total Amount Awarded	10,354
49	Total Grants Generated by Department	9,992
50	Total Faculty receiving Grants	5
51	Total Fellowships Awarded	0
IMPORTANT: Please do not abbreviate. Please spell out all organization/program names.		
52	New Degree Programs or Deletions <i>(name of program and semester added/deleted)</i>	
	With the assistance of the College of Education, we developed an "Initial Certification/Post Baccalaureate" program for Secondary Economics. This was approved by the UWG Faculty Senate at the April 20, 2007 meeting.	
53	New Departments or Other New Units; Also any Restructuring of These	
	None	
54	Accreditation or Similar Distinction or Renewal <i>(name of accrediting body and date department/program received accreditation)</i>	
	BBA Economics Degree program is accredited by the AACSB. The BS Economics with Secondary Ed. Certification degree is NCATE accredited.	
	The Center for Economic Education was granted a five year "affiliation renewal" from the National Council on Economic Education in September 2004	
55	Additional Comments Concerning Your Department	
56*	Give an example of how your department used the assessment of goals and outcomes to change/improve a process. <i>(Required)</i>	
	In past assessments, students have indicated that a strong positive of the Economics Department is the high quality of the faculty. Students have made a number of positive comments about the teaching quality of the faculty and the willingness of the faculty to work individually with students. In selecting new faculty to join the department (one new faculty were hired during 2006-07), the department set as a priority the hiring of instructors who are outstanding classroom teachers.	
	During 2005-06, no economics students participated in "Big Night" or other research presentation forums. Beginning Fall 2006, the Department began offering a research methods class (ECON 3460, Forecasting). It is	

hoped that the offering of this class on a consistent basis will lead to greater student/faculty interaction in research. In 2006-07, two economics majors participated in the RCOB "Big Night" competition. Four other student presentations of research were also made during 2006-07.

Assessment examination results are annually reviewed by the department faculty to determine the level of economic literacy of graduating majors. The Department's Assessment Committee revised the "assessment exam" for Spring 2004. The exam now more closely relates to the Department's learning goals.

In response to student input, the Department has offered a variety of new or infrequently offered upper division economics courses over the past few years. During Fall 2007, we will be offering a new course, Environmental and Resource Economics (ECON 44895), taught by James Murphy.

There was some concern that a few economics majors taking ECON 3410 (Macro Policy) and ECON 3411 (Intermediate Microeconomics) did not have adequate mathematical background. Based on the recommendation of the Curriculum committee, the department faculty approved (Fall 2004) the addition of a Math 1111 (College Algebra) as a prerequisite for both of these classes. Our most recent survey of graduating seniors suggests a desire of a number of our students for more mathematical content in the economics curriculum. Options will be explored by the curriculum committee during Fall 2007.

UPON COMPLETION

Please email completed report to:

Institutional Research and Planning

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