PRC Status Report
B.S. Dietetics Program
Submitted by
Karen Ostenso-McDaniel, Dietetics Program Director
Carolyn Barnhart, Chair, Department of Food and Nutrition
Robert Peters, Interim Dean, College of Education, Health & Human Sciences

Questions concerning College of Human Development now the
College of Education, Health & Human Sciences

1. What is the status of the requested professional counseling center? Where is it located? Is it adequately furnished (including equipment)? Is there sufficient support staff for operation? Describe how the facility is being used.

The Nutrition Counseling course (FN-360) has been scheduled in Room 240 of the Home Economics building. There are eight individual kitchens with folding partitions surrounding a classroom with eight round tables and 32 chairs. The folding doors on the surrounding kitchens can be closed for counseling sessions. Ten video recorders were purchased and are used for FN-360/560 Nutrition Counseling. The students share the video cameras to record counseling sessions for later review with the professor. This space has been inadequate to meet the learning outcomes required by ADA. The Nutrition Counseling class prepares students for professional, confidential counseling responsibilities. This current arrangement in Home Economics 240 is not a professional confidential setting. In addition, 16 students enroll in this course every semester requiring use of lounges and open classrooms to accommodate all counseling lab needs.

The Nutrition Counseling course is taught during the fall and spring semesters. Current enrollment is 16 students and section sizes range from 15 to 20. The lab is inadequate; however, plans are underway to seek a lab modernization proposal for 2009-2010 to replace the folding partitions with permanent walls on the south side and doors that will ensure confidentiality. The classroom discussion area will be updated to reflect current audiovisual classroom needs. Folding walls will be used on the North side of the classroom to define four to five additional counseling areas. There is adequate support staff as a Faculty member is available during class and can view recordings with students for confidential evaluation and critique.

2. Is Career Services able to provide the needed support to assist Dietetics students in receiving competitive internship placement?

Yes, they meet several times with students, mail out all of their forms certified mail; go over the forms with accuracy to ensure that all components are included in their packets such as transcripts, letters, resume, and professional recommendations. The staff in Career Services track this information diligently. The Career Services Office is the recipient of ALL professional recommendation letters; this amounts to over 100 letters each year. Ray Rivera is assigned to the Dietetics Program. He meets with students on Advisement Day two times a year to communicate information about all of the services of the Career Services Office.
In the spring of 2008, a new required one credit course, FN-408 Pre-Professional Development, was added by the Department to the Dietetics program curriculum. This course provides a step-by-step, efficient and effective process toward guiding the student through the completion of application process for the Supervised Practice Programs (Dietetic Internship), graduate school, or employment. The joint cooperation between the Food and Nutrition Department and Career Services ensures that Dietetics students receive the support and skill development that they require to be competitive in internship graduate school acceptance and job placement. This is a service that few universities offer for their students.

Questions concerning College Arts and Sciences now the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

3. Are Dietetics students able to take the needed science courses? Are the needed courses offered at least once a year? Is the enrollment in these courses sufficient for the number of students who need to take it each year?

- BIO-234 Physiology and Anatomy for Health Services
- CHEM-125 Principles of Chemistry for Health Sciences
- CHEM-201 Organic Chemistry
- CHEM-311 Biochemistry

The availability of the required science courses listed above has significantly improved since the submission of the 2005 PRC Report. Although there continues to be problems with the availability of Chem-201, Organic Chemistry and Chem-311, Biochemistry all courses above are offered fall and spring except CHEM-125 is only offered spring semester. The Dietetics curriculum has been modified to allow CHEM-115 General Chemistry, and CHEM-135 Chemistry I, to be substituted for CHEM-125. There is adequate space in CHEM-125 and BIO-234 each semester for the number of Dietetics students who need to take the course. In the past BIO-132 has been allowed as a substitution; the department is thinking about changing the content of BIO-132 and this may not be an option for us. We will need to assess how this change affects BIO-234 availability for our students once the change is made.

Occasionally, there are a few students that cannot get into CHEM-311 due to insufficient space and this usually applies to transfer students who have other courses and cannot get a full schedule unless they take the science course. Two sections with a class size of 12 are offered each semester. CHEM-311 is an important prerequisite for many senior year courses. Students unable to get into CHEM-311 prior to their senior year are counseled to take an online summer Biochemistry course from another institution in order to stay on track with the 4-year plan as this course is not offered in summer at UW-Stout. Organic Chemistry is another course that students occasionally have difficulty getting into but usually, the department chair will add another section when the need arises.

Updated 12/01/08