

wmu seal 2005-2006 Graduate Program Review Appeals Process  
President Judith Bailey  
Western Michigan University  
June 8, 2006



# 2005-2006 Graduate Program Review Appeals Process

## Programs Listed for Closure and Having Filed Appeals

REVISED  
June 7, 2006

## Committee Charge

The appeals committee is charged by the president to receive and evaluate appeals made by programs designated for closure in the Graduate Program Review (GPR) report, "Graduate Education at Western Michigan University: Our First Fifty Years and Strategic Priorities for the Future." The appeal process is outlined in the attached document issued by the president on May 19, 2006. To define the appeal review process more fully, the president provides the following ground rules.

## Criteria and Guidelines

To be consistent with and to maintain the integrity of the initial GPR evaluations, the appeal review will use the "GPR Outcome or Objective" statement and the GPR Criteria.

### GPR Outcome or Objective

"The major outcome of this review process will be a determination of which graduate programs, new or old, are highest strategic priorities in academic affairs and the University, and, as such, should become investment centers for positions and higher levels of operating funds during the next several years." (GPR Evaluation, 7/18/05, p.1)

### GPR Criteria

1. External demand and competitive programs
2. Quality of student and program outcomes, including student satisfaction and industry recognition
3. Quality of program administration and planning
4. Compelling program factor
5. Size, scope, and program productivity with number of students and faculty research/scholarship results
6. Impact, justification, and essentiality of the program
7. Opportunity analysis for interdisciplinary or new program opportunities (GPR Program Evaluation Report, July 18, 2005, Section VII, pp. 5-6)

In addition, to meet the GPR objective, a cross-program, comprehensive and integrative review was necessary in developing the final recommendations. Therefore, to preserve the interrelated nature of the final review and maintain the status and integrity of the reviews and recommendations of all of the other programs, the appeals committee must also consider the “Strategic Decision Construct” and the “Strategic Academic Priorities” in its reviews.

### **Strategic Decision Construct:**

- Affirm our mission as a national research university
- Study emerging national and State educational priorities
- Select programs as strategic priorities and as investment centers
- Avoid tenure-track, tenured faculty layoffs
- Drive enrollment into programs with the capacity to advance high quality
- Redeploy internal funds generated from other programs
- Recognize intersection of research, scholarship, and graduate education

(Comprehensive Graduate Program Review 2005-2006: Priorities for the Future, 5/11/2006, slide 12)

### **Strategic Academic Priorities**

- Advance existing quality in health and human services
- Improve the University’s strength in the humanities, languages, mathematics, physical and life sciences
- Maintain strength in fine arts, social sciences, and teacher education
- Acquire graduate-level program prominence in business and engineering

(Comprehensive Graduate Program Review 2005-2006: Priorities for the Future, 5/11/2006, slide 13)

In the conduct of its appeals, the committee will follow Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure.

## **Nature of Appeals**

Appeals based on the criteria may be filed in order to (a) correct errors of fact, (b) address errors or disputes in the interpretation of data, and/or (c) emphasize particularly compelling aspects of the program in light of the GPR objective, criteria, and strategic decision construct. Written appeals should be in the form of a letter to the appeals committee (sent to [john.jellies@wmich.edu](mailto:john.jellies@wmich.edu)) and limited to 10 standard (12 pt, 1 inch margins) typed pages and should clearly identify the unit making the appeal, the reason for the appeal (i.e., correct errors of fact, address errors or disputes in the interpretation of data, and/or emphasize compelling aspects of the program), and the argument for not closing the program. In addition, the appeals committee will meet with programs making an appeal, as represented by their chairs, deans, and faculty members selected by the chair and dean. The purpose of these meetings will be to seek clarification and understanding of the written appeal.

## **Nature of Recommendations and Reports**

For each of the program appeals being evaluated, the committee will recommend to the

president either closure or continuation (with or without conditions).

The committee will also provide a one-page rationale for each program decision. This rationale should include the following:

- description of the pivotal factor(s) that influenced the committee's decision
- alignment of the pivotal factor(s) with the stated criteria and guidelines
- alignment with the strategic decision construct and the strategic academic priorities

A copy of the committee's recommendation will be provided to the dean of the college and the chair of the department in which the program is located. The committee chair may meet with the department chair and dean to convey the recommendation.

## Time Line

**June 6.** Programs notified committee chair John Jellies by close of business of intent to appeal.

**June 9.** By noon, programs may pick up at the Office of the Provost GPR materials generated at the provost's level.

**June 14.** By 5 p.m., programs must submit appeal materials to the committee chair by e-mail at [john.jellies@wmich.edu](mailto:john.jellies@wmich.edu).

**June 14-30.** The committee will schedule and hold appeals hearings. The committee will contact programs for additional information as needed.

**July 5.** On or before July 5, the committee will send a written decision on each appeal to the president with copies to the appropriate dean and department chair. (See Nature of Recommendations and Reports)

**July 5-13.** The president will review the appeal committee's decisions and make her final, written recommendations. In the course of her review, the president will meet with the appropriate dean to discuss her recommendation. Prior to the Board meeting, the president will issue her written decision to the chair of the appeals committee, the appropriate dean and department chair, and to the Board of Trustees as part of the Board meeting materials. Recommendations will be closure or continuation (with or without conditions). In all cases, the President's recommendations to the Board of Trustees will specify the reason(s) for her decision.

**July 14.** The president presents appeal recommendations to the Board of Trustees.



[Close this Window](#)

