

April 20, 2018

To: APAA DiLalla, APAP Chevalier, Chancellor Montemagno, President Dunn, and the Board of Trustees
From: Quantitative Methods Program Faculty in CQMSE (COEHS)
Re: Program Change Plan

We, the Faculty in the Quantitative Methods (QM) program in the Department of Counseling, Quantitative Methods, and Special Education (CQMSE), are writing this minority report to express our concern about the Program Change Plan.

We are deeply concerned about the alignment of the QM program with the proposed School of Education (SoE), which is in part also reflected in the CIP code of QM being very different from those of the other units. Historically, the QM program has the aim of preparing future researchers and methodologists in the disciplines primarily associated with the social sciences – albeit the Colleges of Business, Agriculture, Engineering, and Mass Communication and Arts also enroll in QM related courses. However, the proposed SoE has the elevated focus on training educators. We do not see how the QM program is relevant under this new focus of the SoE, and are thus questioning the claimed rationale of fostering “*synergy and innovation*” in the proposed plan.

It is noted that the QM program is a service (and not a degree) program that has established *centrality* to the instructional mission of the University at large by offering basic, intermediate, and advanced statistics and measurement/psychometrics methods courses primarily for graduate students. (See the definition of the term *Centrality of Mission* in the “Program Review Overview” p. 5, which was approved by the Faculty Senate and Graduate Council, 06/01/2012; http://pvcaa.siu.edu/_common/documents/program-changes-review-report.pdf). Enrollment data from past years for popular service courses indicate that **over** 50% (95%) of the students were from majors outside COEHS (CQMSE) – these numbers are actually higher after some QUAN courses have been cross-listed with Psychology starting Fall 2014. Based on past enrollment data, it is projected that QM courses would serve a very small minority of students in the proposed SoE. Clearly, opportunities for synergy with the QM program in the proposed SoE are limited.

We have noticed that the proposed plan fails to incorporate any of several potential opportunities to enhance synergies with the QM program. For example, the Department of CQMSE (Quantitative Methods) program currently has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU; available at http://ehs.siu.edu/cqmse/_common/documents/syllabi/COEHS-COLA-MOU.pdf) with Department of Psychology (Applied Psychology). This MoU connects the two Departments in terms of course delivery, student advising, and other indirect teaching e.g. admissions, preliminary examinations, and graduate-level major advisors or GTA supervisors. However, placing the QM program in the proposed SoE will, instead of creating greater opportunities for

collaborations, maintain existing administrative road blocks, making it difficult to amalgamate programs and eliminate redundancies (e.g., course redundancy and the need to hire new faculty when there are existing faculty on campus to meet any pedagogical needs).

Another opportunity for synergy missed by the existing program change plan is a proposal on creating a Center or Institute for Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods dated September 2012

(http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=cqmse_reports). This would not only centralize offerings of research methods courses and consequently eliminate course redundancy, but also create greater opportunities for research collaborations. Moreover, this would contribute to the SoE to be a true “hub” for the university. It is concerning that this proposal has not been considered at all in the Program Change Plan.

Thank you for your attention.