

PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT TO BOARD OF REGENTS

Institution: Dakota State University

Department or School: College of Arts and Sciences

Program(s) Reviewed: Mathematics for Information System

Date of Review: February 28, 2014

Please identify the program reviewers and any external accrediting body:

Asok K. Sen, Ph.D., Department of Mathematical Sciences, Indiana University Purdue

University Indianapolis, 402 Blackford Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

A. Describe the strengths and weaknesses identified by the reviewers.

The strengths identified by the reviewer for the Mathematics for Information Systems program at Dakota State University were: effective use of technology, excellent job placement record of graduates, quality of the faculty, consistency with university mission, program assessment, low student to faculty ratio, and support of other academic programs on campus. The weakness of the program was identified as low enrollment and the concurrent problem of offering upper-level courses on a more frequent basis.

B. Briefly summarize the review recommendations.

The program review of the Mathematics for Information Systems degree at Dakota State University recommended a new tenure track faculty position to meet the ongoing needs of the program, increasing student enrollment by better advertising the program to high school teachers and their students, directing efforts to increasing scores on the MFAT Exam, offering upper-level courses on a more regular basis, encouraging Computer Network Security majors to take Calculus I, and expanding online course offerings by the program.

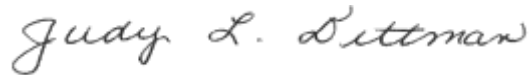
C. Indicate the present and continuing actions to be taken by the college or department to address the issues raised by the review. What outcomes are anticipated as a result of these actions?

Dakota State University just completed a successful search for a new tenure track position in mathematics with an emphasis in discrete mathematics to further support and enhance the Computer Network Security and Computer Science degree programs on campus. Filling this position will certainly help to strengthen the program. As noted in the reviewer's report, enrollment in the program has been increasing again after declining briefly in 2010. Increasing advertising of the Mathematics for Information Systems Program at Dakota State University should focus on its integration and use of technology and the excellent job placement of its graduates. Given that the majority of students in the program are double majors in Computer Science (as noted in the reviewer's report), efforts should be made to increase inter-program collaboration and communication. The computer science faculty are in the best position to encourage students to double major in mathematics. Discussions among the program faculty regarding the MFAT scores (and assessment in general) are already taking place and focus on creating a 1-credit capstone/seminar course that provides some motivation for students to do their best on the assessment measures – at present, a certain subset of students do not take the

MFAT Exam seriously and hence do very poorly. Efforts to increase enrollment and the addition of a new tenure track faculty should help with the upper-level and online course offering recommendations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bader & Jones".

Reviewed by: _____
Dean of the College for Arts and Sciences

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Approved by: _____
Vice President for Academic Affairs