

August 19, 2002

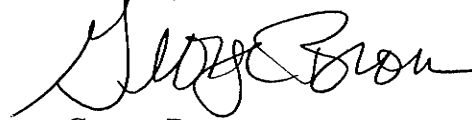
DEAN MARTIN CHEMERS  
Social Sciences Division

Dear Marty:

RE: Economics External Review Charge Approved

The charge for the Economics Department external review, as presented in your August 12, 2002 letter, is approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Brown", written in a cursive style.

George Brown  
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

cc: Assistant Dean Carlson  
Chair Hutchison  
Manager McFarland  
Analyst Moses ✓  
Academic Senate Office

August 12, 2002

**VICE PROVOST GEORGE BROWN**

**Re: Economics External Review — Suggested Charge for Review Committee**

Dear George:

I have enclosed my suggested charge for the review committee for the Economics Department external review. This review is scheduled for the 2002–03 academic year.

I have considered comments from the Committee on Educational Policy, the Committee on Planning and Budget, and the Graduate Council. I have enclosed a copy of these committees' comments.

Sincerely,



Martin M. Chemers  
Dean

Enclosure

cc: Chair Hutchison  
Assistant Dean Carlson  
Principal Analyst Moses  
Manager McFarland

## **DRAFT CHARGE FOR ECONOMICS REVIEW**

- I. Please evaluate the present and planned directions of the scholarship and creative activity described in the academic plan. In particular:
  - A. What are the strengths of the department in relation to comparison research universities?
  - B. Is the direction of scholarly and creative emphasis well thought out and moving in an appropriate direction?
  - C. Are the goals well conceived and poised to improve the department?
  - D. Is the department governance stable?
  - E. Is faculty morale reasonably high?
  - F. Which other key issues does the department face in the next five to ten years?
  - G. How did Economics respond to issues raised in the previous review? Do the same issues remain?
  
- II. Economics offers three undergraduate majors: economics, business management economics, and global economics. In addition, the department co-sponsors a major in information systems management with the Computer Engineering Department. Please evaluate the undergraduate curriculum and degree programs. In particular:
  - A. How do the requirements for each undergraduate major compare with the requirements at other comparable institutions?
  - B. Does an appropriate balance exist between senate and non-senate faculty?
  - C. Please evaluate the advising and mentoring of undergraduate students.
  - D. Please evaluate the use and effectiveness of teaching assistants and course assistants.
  - E. How does the quality of the department's mathematics courses compare with those offered at other institutions?
  
- III. Economics offers two distinct graduate programs, Applied Economics and Finance (M.S.) and International Economics (Ph.D.). Please evaluate the curriculum, quality of students, and adequacy of resources in each program. In particular:
  - A. Does the graduate curriculum offer sufficient breadth and depth for the program?
  - B. Are the students satisfied with the curriculum and the quality and effectiveness of the teaching?
  - C. Please comment on the overall quality, diversity, and morale of the students, as well as the balance of domestic and international students.
  - D. Do the students have adequate financial support? Is funding transparent to incoming students so their expectations are realistic?
  
- IV. Please evaluate the adequacy of the department's resources, including faculty, staff, TA's, space, and computing.

May 21, 2002

Dean Martin Chemers  
Division of Social Sciences

**Re: CPB's Response to Draft Charge for Economics External Review**

Dear Marty,

CPB has reviewed the draft charge for the external review of the Department of Economics. The lengthy but non-specific nature of the charge, as we have noted in other similar charges, may be less useful in directing attention to issues in which the advice of the external review committee may prove helpful. By attempting to cover all that the department does, the charge does not allow the committee to focus on issues specific to UCSC. We recommend that the overall charge be streamlined and those items of particular importance be highlighted.

Because the Economics Department directs four separate undergraduate majors simultaneously, CPB recommends that a specific charge be made regarding the comparative quality of each major in comparison to each other and to similar majors at other UC campuses or comparison institutions. Do any of the programs disproportionately drain resources from other programs? Is the allocation of proposed recruitments beneficial to all majors?

Given the difficulties that Economics has experienced in successfully recruiting new faculty, the external review committee should assess and provide suggestions in improving the job descriptions and targeting the recruitment pool more effectively. Are salaries and start-up packages comparable to other similar institutions?

The graduate students drawn to the UCSC Economics degree programs include a large number of non-resident and foreign students. Is the current funding strategy adequately accommodating the needs of all graduate students? Is the funding situation transparent to incoming students so they are aware of the level funding they can expect after the first year? Are there ways in which the funding strategy could be improved?

Finally, CPB recommends that the external review committee be larger than is common in many departments due to the diverse nature of the various Economics programs. Specifically, a committee member representing Business Management Economics and another for Information Systems Management would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Bob Meister, Chair  
Committee on Planning and Budget

cc: Assistant Dean Carlson  
Manager McFarland  
Principal Analyst Moses  
CEP Chair Freeman  
GC Chair Williams

Date: Mon, 29 Jul 2002 09:17:04 -0700  
To: dcarlson@cats.ucsc.edu, maryann@zzyx.ucsc.edu  
From: Joyce Stine <joyce@zzyx.ucsc.edu>  
Subject: Fwd: Review Charge - Economics  
X-UCSC-CATS-MailScanner: Found to be clean  
X-arrival-time: 1027959514

X-Sender: freeman@cats-po-1.ucsc.edu (Unverified)  
Date: Mon, 29 Jul 2002 08:53:02 -0700  
To: mchemers@zzyx.UCSC.EDU  
From: Carol Freeman <freeman@cats.ucsc.edu>  
Subject: Review Charge - Economics  
Cc: freeman@cats.ucsc.edu, catfong@cats.ucsc.edu, joyce@zzyx.UCSC.EDU  
X-UCSC-CATS-MailScanner: Found to be clean  
Sorry about the delay with this. I drafted it months ago and thought (dreamt?!) I had sent it along.

Carol

July 28, 2002

Martin M. Chemers  
Dean, Division of Social Sciences

Dear Dean Chemers:

In the course of its review of a host of draft charge letters for external review committees, the Committee on Educational Policy has come to the conclusions that, in general, the generic portion of most charges is too long, with too many subheadings. The draft charge for Economics is a case in point, presenting, we believe, the external review committee with an impossibly long list of questions, many of which probably do not lead in fruitful directions and most of which will be ignored.

In the context of a general request for the committee to evaluate the quality of the undergraduate program, especially in relation to its expansion without a commensurate increase in faculty members, we advise that the external review committee be asked a smaller number of more precise questions. We think it important that the committee be asked to review the quality of each major in Economics separately and that a separate question be asked about the quality of general education offerings and, possibly, the quality of the department's mathematics courses. CEP agrees that it is important to ask about the department's use of undergraduate teaching assistants.

Sincerely,

Carol Freeman, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy

REC'D JUL 23 2002

May 30, 2002

TO: Dean Martin Chemers  
FROM: Graduate Council Chair Quentin Williams

cc: DC  
MA

***RE: Economics External Review Draft Charge -- Grad Council comments***

The Graduate Council discussed the Economics External Review Charge in some detail, and would like the following specific revisions to be included in the Charge:

Please include under item 4a

- student satisfaction with curriculum delivery, quality of teaching, and effectiveness of department graduate teaching as gauged by the students.

Under item 4b, please include

- Please evaluate current efforts (vis a vis the discipline as a whole) to develop the goal of ethnic and gender diversity
- Please assess both the department's domestic and international recruitment processes, and comment on the balance of domestic to international students within the program
- How does the student cadre compare with those at other institutions?

It might be appropriate to break up items 4a and 4b into several sub-items to match the relative brevity of items 4d to 4h.

Please rephrase item 7b as:

- Are the available Library materials, computing space, laboratories, teaching and staff resources sufficient for the department?

This change is simply because most of the resources referred to are not departmental resources, as implied in the original phraseology. Items 7a and 7b are thus somewhat redundant with item 4c, but the focus on graduate students of item 4c is appreciated by the Graduate Council.

In item 8a, please add

- Are the goals of the academic plan well thought out and poised to improve the department?

We view this query as probably more important than the linkage of the academic plan with current enrollment trends.

Finally, we would like an additional item included, preferably as #1 among the list of (now) 9 items, as it yields insight into both notable improvements and ongoing problems within the department. We regard this item as critically important.

1. Response to Prior Review

- How did the department respond to issues raised in its prior review? Has the department addressed these, or do there remain continuing issues?

cc: VPAA George Brown, VPAA Analyst Moses  
Economics Department Chair  
CEP representative  
CBP representative