

Program Review, Department of Botany, Weber State University

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Introduction

We had a visit of one day (March 20) to the College of Science and, particularly, the Department of Botany. In the morning we met with Dr. Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Dean of the College of Science, who shared with the review team her ideas and guidelines for the review process, and with Dr. Sue Harley, Botany Department Chair, who gave us an introduction to the Department and its academic goals. After a tour of the facilities led by Sonya Welsh, Laboratory Manager in the Department of Botany,45 -1.15ra62

The facilities of the Department are outstanding. Housed in a new building, with modern and well-equipped laboratories, the students have extraordinary resources to learn, including new state-of-the-art microscopes and an outstanding teaching greenhouse with a remarkable live collection of extremely rare plants, of great value for the teaching of plant evolution. The campus has also an excellent library system, with advanced online access, that allows both students and researchers to access publications with ease and efficiency. In particular, the Botany support librarian —

In terms of evaluation of teaching performance, the evaluation of success in teaching is largely based in the quantification of acquired skills; i.e., the grades and exam results, as is well explained in the Department's Self-Study. There are no set systems to gather student's own feedback on the courses, the curricula, or the perceived quality of the teaching process. After discussing this aspect with the Department's faculty, we do agree that student's feedback is often biased or guided by the student's