

B. Curriculum

A close review of the WUX curriculum shows that all but four content-focused courses are focused primarily on web development or a capstone-type of experience. The four exceptions are Web 1400, Web 2500, Web 3500 and Web 3650. The last course, Web 3650, is elective. Only these courses have ties to User Experience and two are Freshman and Sophomore level. Yet, the Department of Visual Art & Design offer a minor in Design for Digital Media which has several courses that could fit within the User Experience (e.g. Design for the Internet, Interaction Design) and could be utilized to strengthen the Web and User Experience curriculum.

A sentiment that was expressed during interviews was the question of why the College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology was offering this program instead of offering a Web Development degree and recommending to students who are interested in a design or user experience emphasis to pursue the Design for Digital Media minor. By playing to the strengths of the two programs the students would be served well and meet the goals as expressed in the afore mentioned mission statement and avoid the difficulty being experienced while try

move forward with the revised Web and User Experience program student portfolios will be evaluated at both the AAS and BS level.” However, the portfolio requirement is not listed as a program requirement in the 2019-2020 catalog except for the Client-side Portfolio (Web 2890). In the curriculum map, page 4 of the self-study, The Web Development capstone (Web 4350) indicates that it is used for comprehensive assessment and artifact collection in all learning outcome areas except one. It appears to be the only course that does so. Is this the Portfolio course mentioned or is it the Web 2890 course or is it an unstated requirement that is not attached to a course?

The lack of the portfolio being a clearly stated requirement of the program leaves the ability to clearly understand the assessment of the outcomes difficult to ascertain. If it is the 2890 course, then the question to be answered is how is this AAS course requirement, assumed to be completed during the Sophomore year or at the end of the AAS degree, an accurate measure of upper-division skills and BS learning outcomes?

Another concern, expressed by students, was that the requirements of the portfolio creation process are dictated by the professor with not enough latitude for students to

Standard Rating: Concern

D. Academic Advising

The self-study indicates that there are three advisors working with the Web & User Experience degree, however, one of the three is focused primarily on “advising

Two separate unsuccessful attempts have been made to hire a faculty member with user experience expertise to meet this need. The difficulty is that salaries at the university are unable to compete with industry. While funds can be made available to hire an individual, to do so would create a dramatic imbalance in salaries within the program and department. Rightly so, the Dean and Chair have been reluctant to create such an imbalance.

The faculty appear to be underpaid. Many indicated that they must work overload just to make ends meet. It does appear to be having an affect on retention with experienced faculty leaving the university. This issue needs to be addressed at the University or Regent's level, not at the program level.

The majority of faculty appear to be diligent in engaging with the program, curriculum and students – they should be commended. However, low pay appears to be a distraction with many working additional jobs as independent contractors or taking on other responsibilities within the university for additional pay. This sentiment was observed by Dean Ferro as, “keeping one foot out” of their full-time teaching responsibilities.

This assumption of many roles and responsibilities is particularly true of the program coordinator, Cody Squadroni, who was widely praised by his peers, the department chair, dean and students alike for his work and efforts to build, expand and see that the program is a success. However, Mr. Squadroni is not a tenure-track faculty member, and as noted in section D, is severely over worked, under-paid and has no long-term stability at the university. It is the recommendation of the review committee that despite Mr. Squadroni's lack of an advanced degree, that if the university desires to keep this valuable man, he be placed into a tenure track position and paid accordingly. Not only will this provide stability for him, but for the program as well. In the web development field, a Bachelor's degree or professional certifications is the norm. He could (should) be supported by the university and the college to obtain a Master's degree in a related field if required for the tenure track.

Should Mr. Squadroni leave, it is our opinion that the integrity of the program would be severely compromised and perhaps even prove fatal to it.

Standard Rating: Faculty as a whole – Good; Mr. Squadroni's situation - Weakness

F. Support (Staff, Administration, Facilities, Equipment, and Library)

Without exception the faculty expressed satisfaction with the support provided by

Dean David Ferro and Spencer Hilton, the chair of the School of Computing and support staff – these individuals are to be commended.

Courses for the program are taught in several different buildings on the main campus: Elizabeth Hall and the Technical Education (TE) building. The TE

The review team was puzzled by this suggestion as web appears to be the strength

