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Date: 9/20/00 3:01 PM
Subject: Assessment

Elaine:

The following is the report we discussed on the phone. If you need more details, let me know.

Thanks for your help.

Derek

Assessment of Programs in the Department of Economics:

Undergraduate Program:

Historically, we have focused our assessment of the undergraduate program on two factors: (i) the breadth of our course offerings and (ii) the demand for our classes. In both areas, we are doing quite well.

For some time, in response to student and alumni input, we have sought to expand our advanced undergraduate course offerings. During the past year, we approved two new advanced courses that deal with important and growing areas of economic science. First, we now offer a course in law and economics, Econ 522. This course explores developments in economic theory that now shape the way legal scholars treat issues such as contracts, antitrust, and environmental regulation. The course provides excellent training in applied theory, and it should be quite useful for students who plan to pursue careers that directly involve economic analysis. In addition, students who are planning to pursue careers in law should find this course of particular interest. We now also offer an advanced course in the economics of growth, Econ 475. This course introduces students to modern developments in economic analyses of growth and development. Given the level of student interest in topics related to globalization, we feel that 475 is an important addition to our course listings.

We are also pleased to note that the number of economics majors continues to grow. Undergraduate degree recipients have grown each of the past three years. Our total for 1999-2000 was 175 degrees. The total for 1996-97 was only 136.

Graduate Program:

We assess our graduate program primarily by looking at the placements of our PhD students and the quality of their dissertations.

Our graduate program has enjoyed noteworthy placement success in the last two years. We have had 29 graduate students seeking PhD level jobs. Of these 29, only one encountered serious problems finding a job. Further, we had a number of excellent placements.

In the spring of 1999, we had three outstanding placements. <NAME DELETED>

<NAME DELETED> accepted an offer from Boston University. He had several other offers including one from Stanford s business school <NAME DELETED>

<NAME DELETED> accepted a position at Northwestern University. The

University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania also extended offers to <NAME DELETED> Finally, <NAME DELETED> accepted a position at Duke.

In the spring of 2000, our success continued. <NAME DELETED>

received offers from several schools including the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania. He chose Penn. <NAME DELETED>

<NAME DELETED> received offers from Brown, NYU, and several other universities before accepting an offer from UCSD. UCSD has a top 20 economics department that is on occaslon ranked in the top 15.

Over the 1990s, our graduate program became smaller. In part, this trend reflects our success in encouraging more students to finish their dissertations in a timely manner. We have far fewer students in their sixth year or beyond who are still in the program. We feel that the quality of students' dissertations and the level of their placements in recent years provide evidence that our graduate program is performing well.

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