

Summary of Internal and External Review Team Reports
Department of Geography and Environmental Resources
Fall 2006

The following summarizes the findings of the internal and external review teams that conducted reviews during the Fall semester of 2006.

The faculty of the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources is highly regarded among academic peers as well as among SIIUC undergraduate and graduate students. The faculty have three main areas of focus: water resources, climate and environmental change, and geographic information science. However, currently there are only six faculty members as well as two instructors. Additionally, there are two open searches. However, both undergraduate and graduate students expressed concern that the only tenure track geographic information science faculty member is overloaded as this is the most popular area of study for students. Additionally, the faculty believe that the department would be more successful with two additional tenure track lines.

It was recommended:

- that one new tenure track position in the area of geographic information science be added to the Department.
- that one of the lecturer positions should become a permanent, tenure-track position.
- that the full time faculty hold a day-long retreat meeting annually to discuss strategic planning and other issues.
- that the department be proactive in efforts to retain promising faculty.
- that tenure track faculty be provided with effective mentoring from colleagues.
- that additional teaching assistant lines be committed to the Department to assist instructors and to meet the growing geographic information science demand.

The facilities occupied by the Department of Geography and Environmental Resources leave much to be desired. Teaching laboratories are crowded and more office and faculty laboratory space is needed. Additionally, there is not enough storage space for Departmental equipment and documents.

It was recommended:

- that at least one generic classroom in Faner be converted into additional teaching laboratory space.
- that additional space be located for faculty laboratory space and graduate student office space.