I met with the Materials Science Graduate Program Director, Bill Warnes, in his office in Dearborn Hall on April 23, 2007. We reviewed the recommendations of the program review team from Spring 2007. Dr. Warnes provided the attached update to the action plan for Materials Science (Mat Sci) and highlights of the program in the intervening three years.

Looking back at the original action plan, the School of Mechanical, Industrial and Materials and Manufacturing Engineering continues to be very supportive of the Materials Science program, providing administrative support and 0.2 FTE for the Director.

Significant steps taken by the program since the review include:

1. The addition of 19 new faculty, all outside of Mechanical Engineering.
2. A resolution by the Chemistry department to treat Mat Sci students as full members, allowing them to hold Chemistry GTA positions.
3. The establishment of a uniform qualifying exam.
4. Establishment of an online application and faculty distribution system for evaluation of applicants.
5. Faculty and grad student barbecue events and regular faculty meetings.

The program took the recommendations of the review team seriously and implemented significant changes to the program as detailed above and in the attachments. However, one item remains uncompleted. The program did not complete the required student surveys prior to the review team visit in spring 2007 and promised to do so by the follow-up review. The surveys have still not been done.

Finally, as with most interdisciplinary graduate programs at OSU, there continues to be confusion regarding who gets "credit" for advising a Mat Sci graduate student. For example, Wood Science requires that all Mat Sci grad students who conduct thesis research in their department complete a dual degree as a means of accounting for the support of those students. This seems an unnecessary burden for the students and an issue that continues to need to be addressed at the university level.

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