DATE: May 20th 2012

CATEGORY I REVIEW – Graduate Programs in Environmental Engineering (EE)

GC REVIEWER – Vinod Narayanan

BRIEF BACKGROUND – EE program resides within the School of Chemical Biological and Environmental Engineering. Previously, it was housed in the Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering Department. In either case, students specializing in EE were/are awarded Civil engineering or Chemical Engineering degrees. As a “truth in advertising” the ChemE faculty would rather that the EE majors got EE degrees. This sentiment has been apparently felt by the EE grad students as well for several years. What is sought through this Cat I is discipline-specific graduate degrees in Environmental Engineering (MS, MEng, PhD).

REVIEWER COMMENTS – This is a pretty straightforward proposal. No new courses are being proposed; need is well documented; faculty have been teaching courses and mentoring students in this area- it is just that students will now be able to call themselves EE graduates. So, there is no major change. The faculty and courses currently exist to support this graduate program and nothing much changes. Between 20 and 40 students exist in this program on average. This will only be an on-campus program. Liaison comments were all positive and supported this change.

1. Need for this graduate program – the need is not an issue here since this program has existed for several years; students have been placed in industry, government agencies, internationally, and in academia.
2. Implementation – all courses exist and no major changes are needed; faculty are already bringing in grants to support students
3. Resources – faculty, staff, infrastructure – all are in place

At the APC there was only one issue pertinent to the GC that was brought up. This pertained to the need to revise the Learning Outcomes to be consistent with those set by the GC as well as the assessment plan for these outcomes. This change has since been incorporated into the Cat I. Other comments are listed per the suggested review outline.

1. MISSION STATEMENT – consistent with OSU strategic priorities in sustainable earth systems, improving health and wellness and promotion of economic growth and social progress.
2. ACCREDITATION – no accreditation is sought for the graduate degrees
3. NEED (Evidence of market demand) – exit student employment data is provided strongly suggesting need. Support letter from Bend Research is also provided.
4. OUTCOMES AND QUALITY ASSESSMENT – completed, no big issues here. Only needs a clarification regarding the assessment of Outcome 3 – The assessment plan for ethical conduct includes completion of CHE 507 Seminar – please describe how ethical aspects are integrated into this seminar series.

5. PROGRAM INTEGRATION AND COLLABORATION – no collaboration is proposed. PSU and OHSU/OGI offer programs in environmental science and/or engineering. OSU program complements these. It is the only program with strong emphasis in traditional EE focused on the built environment.

6. FINANCIAL STABILITY – stable; faculty line and TA support already exists; students are funded through GTAs and GRAs. All listed faculty are active in research.

7. EXTERNAL REVIEW – list of reviewers have been suggested external to the State.