

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Reviewer:

School:

Department:

Email:

Date Reviewed: 3-15-2009

Documents Reviewed: PhD in Applied Earth Sciences

Summary of Proposal: This proposal for offering a PhD in Applied Earth Sciences appears quite sound and justified. My concerns lie with the proposed list of faculty's practical experience in initiating and maintaining a PhD level program. My concern was highlighted to me by the information included in the short biographies of the participating faculty. These were very long on research and nonexistent in providing a picture of their experiences in training PhD students. I thought that the lack of mentioning which member faculty were endorsed to chair PhD committees and the complete absence of any indication as to the number Master's student (let alone PhD students) each member had trained or somehow been involved with at a training level were glaring omissions.

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

2. Is the program academically sound?

Research-wise yes.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

Hard to tell

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

No

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...

My recommendation is that the relevant training information needs to be included in order to evaluate the faculty's experience in training PhD students, both in the context of individual mentoring needs as well as in the administration of a program. I would also recommend that a sufficient core of senior faculty with both experience in mentoring PhD students as well as in the administration of a PhD program need to be explicitly identified and that letters from these individuals stating their willingness to help in the establishment of this program be included.