Charge to the Program Review Process Task Force

**Background:** The process of program review at Northern Illinois University (NIU) for academic programs and centers is well established and long-standing. It has served us well over time for both our internal and external needs. However, at this time, it is important that this process be reviewed to ensure that it is as effective and efficient as it needs to be as we move into an increasingly fluid and competitive environment in higher education. A number of innovative practices are emerging at campuses across the country designed to invigorate the program review processes and enable these processes to be more effective, efficient, and better aligned with institutional goals and external demands. Background materials on some of these innovations and best practices will be distributed to the members of this task force to aid them in creating a set of comprehensive recommendations for the Academic Planning Council (APC) to consider for implementation at NIU.

**Issues to be Addressed:**

1. **Effectiveness:** including, but not limited to
   a. Timeliness of program data and its uses
   b. Transparency of program data and its uses
   c. APC use of data for program improvement, support, and/or possible elimination

2. **Efficiency:** including, but not limited to
   a. Optimum use of personnel and other NIU resources
   b. Ease of process for academic programs and members of the APC

3. **Alignment:** including but not limited to
   a. Alignment with institutional goals
   b. Alignment with IBHE requirements
   c. Alignment with guidelines/requirements of our regional, college, and disciplinary accreditors

**Expected Outcomes:**

1. Review of best practices for program review processes
2. Evaluation of our current program review process at NIU (i.e., what’s working and what needs improvement)
3. Compilation of a set of recommendations for the APC to consider for implementation beginning in fall 2013. (Note: The task force is being charged with compiling a set of recommendations for the APC to review, and, once approved, the APC and the Office of the Provost will design an implementation plan to be phased in over time.

**Timeline:** The task force will meet 4-5 times during spring 2013 to complete its work and 1-2 times in fall 2013 to finalize and present a set of recommendations to the APC.