Report of the Academic Planning Council to the University Council
2012-2013

The Academic Planning Council (APC) is charged by the University Constitution and Bylaws with assisting the provost in developing academic priorities and plans for the university, conducting the regular reviews of academic programs and centers, and addressing other academic issues related to the university mission. The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee of the NIU Board of Trustees review the materials and recommendations that emerge from the work of the APC. The Board of Trustees approves any programmatic items requiring board action prior to being forwarded to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

The Program Review Report will be submitted to the IBHE in August. The report will focus on student learning outcomes and the use of evidence from programmatic assessment to improve those outcomes.

The programs in the College of Education scheduled for review in 2012-2013 were the:

- M.S.Ed. and Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instructional
- B.S.Ed. and M.S.Ed. in Special Education
- B.S.Ed. and M.S.Ed. in Elementary Education
- M.S.Ed. in Early Childhood Education
- M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education

The programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences scheduled for review in 2012-2013 were the:

- B.A./B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. in Psychology
- Master of Public Administration
- B.A./B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. in Political Science

The B.S. in Early Childhood Studies, an interdisciplinary degree within the Colleges of Education and Health and Human Sciences was also reviewed in 2012-2013.

The IBHE also requires that the university review organized research and public service centers on a regular schedule. During 2012-2013, the following centers were reviewed:

- Psychological Services Center
- Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault
- Center for Child Welfare and Education
- Center for Governmental Studies
- Public Opinion Laboratory
- Literacy Clinic

The faculty members of the APC work in subcommittees charged with the responsibility for intensive reviews of the programs scheduled in the review cycle. They meet with college and departmental representatives to discuss the program review documents and then report their findings and recommendations for future action at a meeting of the full APC. Deans, chairs, and other
departmental representatives attend this meeting in order to respond to the subcommittee reports and answer questions from other members of the APC.

The APC subcommittee reports serve as a basis for the final revisions of the program reviews and for the recommendations for the future. Two subcommittees reviewed programs in 2012-2013. These subcommittees were chaired by: Lisa Baumgartner, Department of Counseling, Adult, and Higher Education and Geoffrey Gordon, Department of Marketing.

The APC met a total of ten times beginning on 10 September 2012 and ending on 29 April 2013. Aimee Prawitz was elected assistant chair of the council. The APC members also voted to have the provost, the vice provost for academic planning and development, the assistant chair of the council, and the subcommittee chairs serve as the agenda committee. The agenda for the fall semester is dictated by the program review schedule, but the agenda committee identifies broader topics that need discussion for the spring semester meetings.

The APC endorsed the proposals for the School of Public and Global Affairs and the Department of Public Administration. Other items of business discussed by the APC included follow-up and interim reports requested by APC subcommittees in prior years; budget priorities and performance metrics; the baccalaureate review and General Education Visioning Task Force; performance-based funding; distributed learning; course transformation; the upcoming Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation; and the Voluntary System of Accountability/College Portrait initiative. The 2011-2012 Annual Assessment Update Report, the 2011-2012 Annual Assessment Update Graduate Programs Report, the 2012 Program Review Report, and the 2012 University Writing Project Report were presented to and discussed by the APC. The council also received updates regarding Strategic Planning and Vision 2020.

Members of the APC were invited to participate in a Program Review Process Task Force along with other key campus stakeholders in the spring of 2013. Recommendations from this task force were developed, given to the provost, and will be shared with the president in summer 2013. The recommendations will be finalized and brought to the full APC in fall 2013.

Summaries of the program reviews conducted in 2012-2013 will be forwarded to the NIU Board of Trustees and the IBHE in August 2013. These materials are available upon request from the provost’s office (753.8378).

Respectfully submitted,

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Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Development

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