Report of the Academic Planning Council to the University Council  
2013-2014

The Academic Planning Council (APC) is charged by the University Constitution and Bylaws with assisting the executive vice president and 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, including the establishment of priorities in budgeting. 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 2014. 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 Business scheduled for review in 2013-2014 were the:

- B.S. in Business Administration and Master of Business Administration
- B.S. in Operations and Information Management
- B.S. in Accountancy and M.A.S.
- B.S. in Finance
- M.S. in Management Information Systems
- B.S. in Management
- B.S. in Marketing
- Master of Science in Taxation

The programs in the College of Health and Human Sciences scheduled for review in 2013-2014 were the:

- M.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences
- B.S. in Family and Child Studies and M.S. in Applied Family and Child Studies
- B.S. in Textiles, Apparel, and Merchandising
- B.S. in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Administration and M.S. in Nutrition and Dietetics

The programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences scheduled for review in 2013-2014 were the:

- B.A./B.S. and M.A. in Anthropology
- B.A./B.S. and M.A. in Sociology

The IBHE also requires that the university review organized research and public service centers on a regular schedule. During 2013-2014, the following centers were reviewed:

- Center for Southeast Asian Studies
- Family Therapy Clinic
- Business Experiential Learning Center
- Chandeliers Room
- Child Development Laboratory

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 2013-2014. These subcommittees were chaired by: Marc Falkoff, College of Law and Geoffrey Gordon, Department of Marketing.

The APC met a total of fourteen times beginning on 26 August 2013 and ending on 5 May 2014. Marc Falkoff 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 and chairs in training 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 proposal for a new program, the Ph.D. in Health Sciences in the College of Health and Human Sciences, and endorsed the Recommendations of the 2013 Program Review Process Task Force. 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 General Education Visioning Task Force; performance-based funding; and the Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation. The 2012-2013 Annual Assessment Update Report, the 2012-2013 Annual Assessment Update Graduate Programs Report, the 2013 Program Review Report, and the 2013 University Writing Project Report were presented to and discussed by the APC.

The spring semester was devoted to a series of discussions regarding the APC’s future role in program review and program prioritization. This included a group discussion of Robert Dickeson’s book entitled, Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services; a presentation by the Director of the Office of Academic Analysis and Reporting; a panel discussion including several key leaders of the university; and a joint meeting with the University Council’s Resource Budget and Space Committee where an overview of vacancy prioritizations and decisions was presented by the Provost, with the President in attendance and the Chief Financial Officer in virtual attendance via Skype.

Summaries of the program reviews conducted in 2013-2014 will be forwarded to the NIU Board of Trustees and the IBHE in August 2014. 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