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 2015. The report will focus on student learning outcomes and the use of evidence from programmatic assessment to improve those outcomes.

The program in the College of Law scheduled for review in 2014-2015 was the:

**Doctor of Jurisprudence**

The program in the Office of the Provost scheduled for review in 2014-2015 was the:

**Bachelor of General Studies**

The programs in the College of Health and Human Sciences scheduled for review in 2014-2015 were the:

- B.S. and M.A. in Communicative Disorders
- Doctor of Audiology
- B.S. and M.S. in Nursing

The programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences scheduled for review in 2014-2015 were the:

- B.A. in German
- B.A. and M.A. in French
- B.A. and M.A. in Spanish

The IBHE also requires that the university review organized research and public service centers on a regular schedule. During 2014-2015, the following center was reviewed:

**Speech-Language-Hearing 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 2014-2015. These subcommittees were chaired by: Rebecca Shortridge, College of Business and Lan Li, College of Health and Human Sciences.
The APC met a total of seventeen times beginning on August 25, 2014 and ending on April 20, 2015. 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 programs, the B.S. in Hospitality and Tourism Management in the College of Health and Human Sciences, The B.S.Ed. in Middle Schools in the College of Education, Doctor of Nursing Practice in the College of Health and Human Sciences, and the Ph.D. in Instructional Technology. Other items of business discussed by the APC included follow-up and interim reports requested by APC subcommittees in prior years; discussions on Program Prioritization; accreditation cycle; review of potential program review prospectus; Qualtrics survey for program prioritization and program review. The 2014-2015 Annual Assessment Update Report; the 2014 Program Review Report; and the 2014 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 discussions and updates on Program Prioritization including criteria for Administrative and Academic Task Forces and assigned weighting; Accreditation Overview; NIU Plus; Triangle Strategic Planning Framework

Summaries of the program reviews conducted in 2014-2015 will be forwarded to the NIU Board of Trustees and the IBHE in August 2015. These materials are available upon request from the provost’s office (753.8378).

Respectfully submitted,

Carolinda Douglass
Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Development

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