

## **Report of the Academic Planning Council to the University Council 2015-2016**

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 2016. 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 Visual and Performing Arts reviewed in 2015-2016 were the:

- B.S.Ed. in Art and Design Education
- M.S. in Art
- B.A. in Theatre Studies
- B.F.A and M.F.A. in Theatre Arts
- B.A. in Art History
- Ph.D. in Art Education
- B.A. and M.M. in Music
- B.M. in Music and Performer's Certificate in Music

The programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences reviewed in 2015-2016 were the:

- B.A./B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics
- B.A./B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. in History

The IBHE also requires that the university review organized research and public service centers on a regular schedule. During 2015-2016, the following centers were reviewed:

- Center for Burma Studies
- Art Museum

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 2015-2016. These subcommittees were chaired by: Rebecca Shortridge and Geoff Gordon, College of Business and Brianno Collier, College of Engineering & Engineering Technology.

The APC met a total of sixteen times beginning on August 31, 2015 and ending on May 9, 2016. 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, B.S. in Art in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, B.F.A. in Dance Performance in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, B.S.Ed. in Middle Level

Teaching and Learning in the College of Education, M.S. in Athletic Training in the College of Education, M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling in the College of Health and Human Sciences, Ph.D. in Counseling Education Supervision in the College of Education and the new School of Nursing. 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; Program Review Improvement, survey for program prioritization and program review. The spring semester was devoted to a series of discussions regarding the APC's future role in program review and program prioritization.

Summaries of the program reviews conducted in 2015-2016 will be forwarded to the NIU Board of Trustees and the IBHE in August 2016. These materials are available upon request from the provost's office (753.8378).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolinda Douglass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "D".

Carolinda Douglass  
Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Development

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