

## **Report of the Academic Planning Council to the University Council 2016-2017**

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 2017. The report will focus on maintaining quality through continuous program improvement.

The programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for review in 2016-2017 were the:

- B.S. in Biological Sciences
- M.S. in Biological Sciences
- Ph.D. in Biological Sciences
- B.S. in Physics
- M.S. in Physics
- Ph.D. in Physics

The programs in the College of Education scheduled for review in 2016-2017 were the:

- B.S.Ed. in Physical Education
- M.S.Ed. in Physical Education

The IBHE also requires that the university review organized research and public service centers on a regular schedule. During 2016-2017, the following centers was reviewed:

- Center for Biochemical
- Plant Molecular Biology Center
- Northern Illinois Center for Accelerator and Detector Development
- Institute for NanoScience, Engineering and Technology
- Regional History Center
- Center for Economic Education

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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 meetings in order to respond to the subcommittee reports and answer questions from 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 2016-2017. These subcommittees were chaired by: Geoff Gordon, College of Business and Jeanne Isabel, College of Health and Human Sciences.

The APC met a total of ten times beginning on September 26, 2016 and ending on May 1, 2017. 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 new programs, the Master of Accountancy (MAC) within the College of Business and the B.S. in Rehabilitation and Disability Service within the College of Health and Human Sciences. The APC also endorsed the proposal for a new School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions within the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Other items of business discussed by the APC included follow-up and interim reports requested by APC subcommittees in prior years; budget; the Program Review process review; overview of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness; New, Consolidated, Closed and Low Producing Programs; Online Learning; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Partnerships with community colleges; HLC June 2018 Assurance Argument; and the relationship between UAP & APC.

Summaries of the program reviews conducted in 2016-2017 will be forwarded to the NIU Board of Trustees and the IBHE in August 2017. These materials are available upon request from the provost's office (753.8378).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolinda Douglass".

Carolinda Douglass  
Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Development