

## **Report of the Academic Planning Council to the University Council 2017-2018**

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 2018. The report will focus on maintaining quality through continuous program improvement.

The programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for review in 2017-2018 were the:

- B.A./B.S. in Nonprofit & NGO Studies
- B.A./B.S. in Environmental Studies
- B.S. in Computer Science
- M.S. in Computer Science
- B.A./B.S. in Geography
- M.S. in Geography
- Ph.D. in Geography
- B.S. in Meteorology
- B.S. in Geology and Environmental Geosciences
- M.S. in Geology and Environmental Geosciences
- Ph.D. in Geology and Environmental Geosciences

The programs in the College of Education scheduled for review in 2017-2018 were the:

- B.S. in Athletic Training

The programs in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology scheduled for review in 2017-2018 were the:

- B.S. in Electrical Engineering
- M.S. in Electrical Engineering
- B.S. in Mechanical Engineering
- M.S. in Mechanical Engineering
- B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering
- M.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering
- B.S. in Technology
- M.S. in Industrial Management

The programs in the College of Health and Human Sciences scheduled for review in 2017-2018 were the:

- B.S. in Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.)

The IBHE also requires that the university review organized research and public service centers on a regular schedule. During 2017-2018, the following center was reviewed:

Microelectronic Research and 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 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 2017-2018. These subcommittees were chaired by: Judy Chitwood, College of Visual and Performing Arts and Jeanne Isabel, College of Health and Human Sciences.

The APC met a total of nine times beginning on September 25, 2017 and ending on April 30, 2018. The agenda is dictated by the program review schedule, and broader topics that need discussion.

The APC endorsed the proposal for new programs, the B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and the B.S. in Mechatronics Engineering within the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology; the M.S. in Digital Marketing and the M.S. in Data Analytics within the College of Business; the M.S. in Health Sciences within the College of Health and Human Sciences; the B.S. in Sport Management within the College of Education; and the Ph.D. in Computer Science within the College of Liberal Arts and 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; HLC June 2018 Assurance Argument; the relationship between UAP & APC; and update and dialogue with the EBC.

Summaries of the program reviews conducted in 2017-2018 will be forwarded to the NIU Board of Trustees and the IBHE in August 2018. These materials are available upon request from the provost's office (753.8378).

Respectfully submitted,



Carolinda Douglass  
Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness