

ACADEMIC PLANNING COUNCIL

March 18, 2024
3:00-4:00 p.m., AL 203

APPROVED Minutes

Present: Meredith Ayers, Cynthia Campbell, Laurie Elish-Piper, Marc Falkoff, David Gorman, Rana Jaber, Donald Zinger

Absent: Ann Dzurainin, Mary Quinlan-McGrath

Guests: George Middlemist

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper.

2. Verification of Quorum

- a. Mia Hannon advised the Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper that a quorum was present.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Rana Jaber moved to adopt, David Gorman seconded, the motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

- a. Mia Hannon advised the Interim Executive Vice President and Provost that no requests for public comment had been received.

5. Approval of February 19, 2024 Minutes

- a. Cynthia Campbell moved to approve, Rana Jaber seconded, minutes were approved.

6. Agenda Items

- a. Program Review Process. 38 programs to review for 2023-2024 cycle. APC members (teams of two) will be assigned programs to review (cannot be from their own college). Reviewers will complete a Qualtrics survey to provide feedback to the colleges.
- b. APC our charge! Should the duties of APC be updated? Specifically, 4.3.3.4, advise the EVPP on academic priorities and strategies... Possible priorities could be Adult Learners, support for student transfer experience, and innovation fund ideas.

7. Other Business

- a. George Middlemist, Chief Financial Officer. NIU tuition and fees increase for undergraduates were discussed. The state is currently in their budget process, the Governor recommended 2% increase for higher education. April 10 & 11 are appropriation hearings for the Senate and House. The Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding stated higher education in Illinois is under

funded by \$1.4B. State finalizes budget by end of May. There is \$400M in deferred maintenance in a separate fund for all universities, which is good but release of funds is slow, for example Swen Parson roof was approved in 2019 and NIU is still waiting for funds.

NIU can help with the deficit by increasing efficiencies like making sure classes meet the standard minimum enrollment, that department chairs and school directors are using APS and Tableau to predict enrollment in courses and everyone reminding students to reenroll sooner.

Another way to help with the deficit is to reduce curricular complexity. For example, a program has five emphases, and one emphasis has seven students in it, can it be phased out? There are specializations in minors, can those be eliminated? It is estimated \$2.8M could be saved by reducing curricular complexity.

Retention is another lever that the Division of Academic Affairs can pull to help with the deficit. Encourage first gen students to meet with financial advisor (separate from academic advisor) for financial literacy help.

Many efforts are underway to help increase enrollment which will help with the deficit. Cybersecurity degree program is being built, EAB is providing market insight on degrees that are in demand, and ReUp partnership to reenroll students who have stepped away from NIU and Adult Learner taskforce.

8. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. by Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Hannon
Administrative Support
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost