Academic Program Review Committee Report

AU Senate

January 17, 2006

Committee Members

- Art Chappelka- Forestry & Wildlife Sciences – Chair
- David Wilson – Continuing
- Mike Moriarty – Continuing
- Steve McFarland – Continuing
- Henry McCurley – Library
- Wendy Duncan-Hewitt – Pharmacy
- Randy Bartlett – Architecture
- Peter Stanwick – Business
- Sareen Gropper – Human Sciences
- David Sutton – Liberal Arts
- Barbara Wilder – Nursing
- Steve Silvern – Education
- Larry Myers – Vet. Medicine
- Robin Huettel – Agriculture
- Yasser Gowayed –Engineering
- Steve Kempf – COSAM

Academic Program Review
(Proposed Committee Recommendations)

- Program reviews will be coordinated through the Office of the Provost.

As the fundamental units of responsibility, **academic departments or schools** (academic degree granting programs) are the basic unit of academic program review at Auburn University.

- The review has two main components: a self-assessment (self-study) and an external assessment.

Academic Program Review
(Proposed Committee Recommendations)

- The self-study is conducted by the unit under review.
- The unit in consultation with the Dean and Provost is responsible for defining its own mission, developing assessment methods and tools, and reporting the results.
  - Criteria will be composed of established measures, eg., student credit hrs., FTEs, national or regional rank of the program (if available), etc., consistent among all AU units, and metrics **unique to each unit**.
  - Possible performance indicators may include, but are not limited to: centrality, efficiency, diversity, productivity, quality, vitality, competitive advantage, compelling need/uniqueness, demand, adequacy of resources, etc.

Academic Program Review
(Proposed Committee Recommendations)

- The external assessment is conducted by **outside** reviewers. These reviewers will be a combination of those external to the department/college and University.

- These reviewers are nominated by the unit head and selected by the Dean in consultation with the Provost.

- The outside reviewers will review the self-assessment, conduct interviews, and issue a final report to the Dean.

- This final report will then be forwarded to the Office of the Provost accompanied by the Dean's recommendations.

- Provost will make recommendations and discuss with the APR committee before implementation.

Academic Program Review
(Proposed Committee Recommendations)

- What if an academic unit already undergoes an accreditation process by an external agency?

- An accreditation report may serve as proof of an external assessment. At the discretion of the department head/chair, Dean and/or Provost, additional external assessments may be warranted.

Results of a review
What happens next?

- After the external review the Dean and Unit Head make a recommendation which forwarded to the Provost

- Dean and Unit Head discuss recommendation with Provost

- Provost makes recommendation and informs the APR committee

- APR committee reviews recommendation and agrees or disagrees with it, and sends findings to Provost

- Final recommendation then sent to the President for approval

Synopsis of reviewer comments
Major points- no order of importance

- Need more definitions of APR
- Better flow of the document
- Be clear on differences between self-study and external review
- Be clear on the use of external assessments
- Timing of recommendation to APR-should it be before or after Provost approval?
- Shorten the Appendix
- Clearly deliniate chain of command

Tentative Timeline

- Committee meetings bi-weekly beginning May 05
- Bi-weekly meetings with Provost beginning June 05
- Present status report to Provost Council 8-11-05
- Met with Dean's – September-October
- Present status report to General Faculty 10-18-05
- Draft document - Oct./Nov.
- Presentation to BOT 11-17-05 (Heilman)
- Sent document out for review – Nov./Dec. 05
- Received all reviews January 3
- Present report to University Senate for discussion 1-17-06
- Senate vote 2-06
- Beta test procedure (test procedure on a voluntary basis with one or two units) Spring 06
- Get feedback-Summer 06 and revise the process
- Implement procedure Fall 06

List of Reviewers

- Conner Bailey
- Nels Madsen
- Holly Stadler
- Drew Clark

Contact Person

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- Chair APR Committee
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