

# Academic Program Review Committee Report

Faculty Senate meeting  
November 11, 2008

# Committee members

Member	College or School		Representative	
Yasser Gowayed	Engineering	Chair		
John Heilman	Provost		Bill Sauser	
Royrickers Cook	Assistant VP for Outreach		--	
John Mason	Associate Provost and VP for Research		Ralph Zee	
George Flowers	Dean of Graduate School		Jeff Sibley	
Robert Tufts	Forestry and Wildlife Sciences			
Barbara A Bishop	Library			
Tarik Orgen	Architecture			
Hubert (Junior) Field	Business			
Daniel Parsons	Pharmacy			
Jennifer Hamner	Nursing			
Ronald Montgomery	Clinical Sciences			
David King	Geology and Geography			
Dudley McGlynn	Psychology			
Cynthia Reed	Truman Pierce Institute (Education)			
Juming Zhong	Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology			

# Recent historical developments

- 2003-2004: President Richardson initiated the Academic Program Review process.
- 2005: Faculty Senate approved review document prepared by APR committee (*Doc1*).
- 2006: Review conducted using another document (*Doc2*).
- 2007: Review conducted using *Doc2* with *Doc1* as an appendix.
- 2008: *Doc2* changed to accommodate requests made by APR committee.

# Academic Program Review

## *Purpose*

- Academic Program Review is an organized activity based on data relative to an institution's mission, goals, and strategic plan.
- The goal of this review process is to strengthen the academic activities of the University.
- “Occasionally, a program review may provide sufficient evidence to warrant a decision to refocus, reorganize, curtail or eliminate some academic activities or even departments. Most often, however, the process will lead to action plans for improving a department's various academic activities, either singly or in combination.”

# Academic Program Review

## *Scope and criteria*

- Program reviews are coordinated through the Office of the Provost.
- As the fundamental units of organization, **academic departments or schools** are the basic units.
- Typically, every program within a unit is reviewed at the same time.
- The review has two main components: self-assessment and external assessment.



# Academic Program Review

## *Self assessment*

- The unit is responsible for defining its own mission, developing assessment methods and tools, and reporting the results.
- The unit defines its performance indicators in a way that fits its mission.
- Five broad criteria: 1) mission and governance, 2) institutional commitment and resources, 3) curriculum and teaching-learning practices, 4) student performance and faculty accomplishments, and 5) assessment of the unit's strength and weaknesses.

# Academic Program Review

## *External review*

- External assessment is conducted by outside reviewers.
- Review team has two members not affiliated with Auburn University and two members from other departments in the University.
- Reviewers are nominated by the unit and selected by the Dean.
- Outside reviewers will review the self-assessment, conduct interviews, and issue a final report to the Dean.
- Final reports will be forwarded to the Office of the Provost accompanied by the Dean's recommendations.
- If an academic unit already undergoes an accreditation process by an external agency, expedited review is conducted.

# Role of Academic Program Review committee

The committee shall: 1) review the final written products (the self-study, the review team's report, and the dean's plan) resulting from each year's round of Academic Program reviews and confer with the Provost on ways to strengthen the academic program review process, and 2) review any proposals to discontinue, merge, or otherwise restructure any academic program and confer with the Provost and reach a decision on the feasibility of the proposal.



# Timeline for review

- Master Calendar for review of all departments is listed in Appendix 1.
- Changes and updates to the Master Calendar will be conducted in consultation with Academic Program Review committee.
- Review process is currently in its third year of implementation.

# Contact Person

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