

APRCA Committee Report to Faculty Senate – April 2021

March 23, 2021

Committee charge and membership

The charge and membership for the Academic Program Reduction and Curricular Adjustments Committee are listed on the Faculty Senate website on the [APRCA committee webpage](https://www.pdx.edu/faculty-senate/academic-program-reduction-and-curricular-adjustments-ad-hoc-committee) at <https://www.pdx.edu/faculty-senate/academic-program-reduction-and-curricular-adjustments-ad-hoc-committee>.

Committee accomplishments and ongoing tasks

1. APRCA Principles and priorities

- a. An APRCA subcommittee created a semi-final draft of the committee's [Principles and Priorities document](#), which is now available on the committee webpage. The committee will in the near engage the campus in these discussions; preliminary plans include a listening session or sessions and a Google form for soliciting feedback.

2. Website: An APRCA subcommittee worked with web designers in OAA to create a website to communicate information about program reduction to the campus community.

- a. The website contains sections on the history of program reduction at PSU, a structural outline of the areas of the university involved in budget and program reduction, resources related to the current financial situation, and a discussion of the Article 22 Special Senate Meeting on IELP (see below). The website contains links to feedback forms for Article 22 Special Senate Meeting on IELP (see below). We encourage all stakeholders to provide comments.

3. Budget informational sessions

- a. The **FADM University Budget Forum** was on Monday, February 22nd.
- b. Two **OAA Budget Town Hall meetings** were held, one on Tuesday March 9th and one on Thursday, March 11th. The second meeting included an APRCA presentation on priorities and principles (crafted by Wakeland, Cunliffe, Jones, and Chaille and presented by Wakeland).

4. Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate – Article 22. Article 22 of the [PSU-AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) sets forth a process (see sections 3 (a) – (f)) of information-sharing and consultation for circumstances in which the University engages in budget-related layoffs. Included in the process is a presentation of budget-related materials at a meeting of the Faculty Senate. On February 4th, President Percy sent a memo to Faculty Senate Presiding Officer Gamburd invoking Article 22 for program reduction in the Intensive English Language Program (IELP).

- a. Because the APRCA committee is charged to “Assist, if requested by OAA or AAUP, in contractually mandated retrenchment hearings arising from elimination of positions,” the an APRCA subcommittee crafted a document entitled “Suggestions for Article 22 Process: Timeline, Meeting Format, Communication” and shared it with OAA, PSU-AAUP, and the President’s Office. This document contributed to a formative conversation between Presiding Officer Gamburd, Presiding Officer Elect Reitenauer, and representatives from OAA and the President’s Office on February 11th.
- b. A special Faculty Senate meeting (as described in Article 22.3.c) took place from 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Monday, March 15th.

- i. During this meeting, as outlined in the PSU-AAUP CBA, Article 22.3.c., the President's team presented "a full description and analysis of the financial condition of the University." Presenters included President Percy, Provost Jeffords, Executive Director of the Office of International Affairs Ron Witczak, and General Counsel Cindy Starke.
 - ii. The meeting also included a presentation from the IELP and a sort presentation from the APRCA committee member and DEI advocate Cynthia Gomez.
- c. Following the President's presentation on March 15th, a 30-day comment period ensues. The APRCA website hosts links to **two sets of comment forms**, one for the President and one for the Faculty Senate. The comments collected on the APRCA form will be summarized and shared with the Faculty Senate and with the campus community.
 - d. Once the President has received and considered feedback from the PSU community, he may declare that a financial exigency exists or that the reduction or elimination of the IELP is necessary. If he moves forward in this way, he will put forth a provisional plan as outlined in Article 22.4. The President's provisional plan will be linked on the APRCA website. The PSU community will be invited for another 30-day period to comment on the plan, and the APRCA website will again host links to two sets of comment forms (one for the President and one for the Faculty Senate). At the conclusion of the second 30-day comment period, the President will announce a final plan and will notify the affected department about how the reductions will take place.
 - e. Both the President and the Faculty Senate are committed to having the entire process unfold before 9-month faculty go off contract on June 16th.
5. **Partner with the Provost's Program Reduction Working Group**
- a. The Provost's Program Reduction Working Group (PPRWG) in conjunction with the APRCA committee will present on April 8th to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Portland State University Board of Trustees regarding plans for budget reductions.
 - b. The Provost's Program Reduction Working Group (PPRWG) in partnership with APRCA plans in the near future to hold college- and school-level meetings with faculty regarding potential budget reductions in their units. Planning for these meetings will get underway in April.