

APRCA Committee Report to Faculty Senate – June 2021

Committee charge

The Faculty Senate charged the Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Program Reduction and Curricular Adjustments in October, 2020 to uphold a faculty voice in decisions regarding how budget reductions will affect educational policy, curriculum, and the structure of the University. In April 2020, the Senate extended the APRCA committee through the 2021-2022 academic year.

The committee is charged to:

- **Focus** holistically on PSU's collective future.
- **Ensure faculty participation** in meaningful, inclusive, and formative discussions of curricular adjustments related to budget reduction.
- **Recommend principles and priorities** based on PSU's values and mission, with an emphasis on applying a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lens, and share these with OAA to guide decision-making.
- **Plan and implement transparent communications**, including but not limited to periodic townhall forums on budget information, regular campus-wide emails, and a website or Google Drive for material, including data on which decisions about reorganizing or eliminating programs are based.
- **Solicit input and feedback** from faculty, including but not limited to implementing surveys and arranging other forums for gathering input and suggestions. Ensure input and involvement from Deans and Chairs/department heads. Facilitate communication with and incorporate input from students, staff, and other stakeholders.
- **Plan and implement meetings and interactions** (preferably with professional mediation), including but not limited to meetings of Colleges/Schools.
- **Assist**, if requested by OAA or AAUP, in contractually mandated retrenchment hearings arising from elimination of positions as per Article 23 of the PSU-AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The committee reported monthly between February and May and provides this report as our end-of-year summary.

Committee membership

Members: Peter Chaillé, Mitchell Cruzan, Rachel Cunliffe, Jones Estes, Kellie Gallagher, Michele Gamburd, Cynthia Gomez, Candyce Reynolds, Alexander Sager, Wayne Wakeland

Consultants: Sy Adler, Cindy Baccar, Vanelda Hopes, David Maddox, Amy Mulkerin, Diane Xiong

Committee accomplishments and ongoing tasks

1. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** The committee internally discussed and addressed questions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The committee also consulted with Marvin Lynn and Cliff Allen, the Co-Chairs of the Academic Leadership Task Force in through Global Diversity and Inclusion.
2. **Partner with the Provost's Program Reduction Working Group**
 - a. The Provost, Susan Jeffords, created the **Provost's Program Reduction Working Group (PPRWG)** in January 2021. According to that committee's charge, "The Provost's Program Reduction Working Group will support the need to have decisions that are data-informed by identifying

metrics and conducting analyses that will inform recommendations of units to consider in the Program Reduction process.” The Provost has asked the PPRWG to provide metrics by February 15th and report their analysis of units by April 1st.

- b. The APRCA committee met several times with Provost Jeffords and leaders of the PPRWG. The groups jointly organized a series of college and school meetings, referred to as the [ReImagine PSU School and College Meetings](#), which are scheduled for May and June of 2021.

3. **APRCA General Principles and Priorities**

- a. The APRCA committee crafted a draft list of Principles and Priorities, shared it with the campus community, incorporated feedback, and provide a revised document for use in the ReImagine PSU process. The [Guiding Principles and Priorities](#) are linked and attached herewith as an appendix.

4. **Website:** The committee has developed and maintained a website to communicate information about program reduction and solicit faculty input and feedback.

- a. The [APRCA committee’s Faculty Senate webpage](#) includes sections on the history of budget cuts at PSU, organizational areas of PSU that deal with budget issues, links to information on PSU’s budget and enrollment forecasts, timeline and materials related to the Article 22 Process for IELP, links to the ReImagine PSU website, an area related to the Guiding Principles and Priorities, and a list of monthly reports.

5. The APRCA committee helped organize an **additional meeting of the Faculty Senate** as outlined in Article 22 of the [PSU-AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) when the University chose to invoke Article 22 for the Intensive English Language Program (IELP).

- a. At a Special Faculty Senate Meeting on March 15, the President provided a budget presentation. In addition, faculty from the IELP presented information about their program.
- b. A 30-day comment period began on March 16. The President and APRCA opened separate forums for feedback. The APRCA feedback form received 102 comments and uploaded documents. APRCA and Faculty Senate Steering synthesized the material into a report, which was shared with the President on April 19 and reported to Senate at the May meeting and in the May packet.
- c. The President provided on May 11th a Preliminary Plan for program reduction in IELP.
- d. A second 30-day comment period (through June 11th) is now underway for President’s comment form. APRCA has also opened a comment form; this form will close on May 25 so that the APRCA Committee and Faculty Senate Steering Committee can synthesize the data and share the material with the Senate for the June meeting.

6. **Ongoing work:** The APRCA committee will continue to provide guidance and input as PSU moves through program reductions and curricular adjustments in the 2021-2022 academic year.