

APRCA Committee Report to Faculty Senate – April 2022

Committee charge and Membership

Please see the [APRCA committee's Faculty Senate website](#) for the committee charge and membership.

Committee report

After our oral report at the March 7th Faculty Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate APRCA committee has been engaged in two avenues of activity.

First, we have been working with the coordinators of the ReImagine Projects to plan for greater interaction with faculty and the wider campus community. The APRCA committee is grappling with the question, "How can we shape the review/reduction discussion to be future-oriented and involve the whole campus in a collaborative, participatory process?" One answer that emerged from this conversation involved inviting faculty, administrators, and staff who had received awards from the Provost's ReImagine PSU initiative to discuss their projects. We hope also to engage the ReImagine Fellows and the Futures Collaboratory. The general push is to see whether we can help shift the 'ReImagine' discussion from being solely one of cuts and reduction to being an opportunity for the entire university to grow and change in positive directions, rather than solely the 18 'scrutinized' units shrinking or disappearing. Planning is ongoing regarding timeline and forums for such activities, which will likely take place next Fall.

Second, we are discussing the complex case of the Systems Science program to determine what the precedent set forth in this case will mean for program reduction processes moving forward. In a nutshell, the program's two faculty members are both nearing retirement. SySc is widely acknowledged as both excellent academically and performing well financially. Program assessment information makes clear that a minimum of two permanent faculty members is required to continue the program. CLAS has made no commitment to rehire hen lines come open. An AAUP grievance settlement states that eliminating Systems Science (and, presumably, any other program) should go through the Article 22 process outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement; such an elimination should not take place solely through attrition. The Systems Science program's yearly admissions decisions are upcoming. If the program is going to continue, admissions need to take place. If the program is going to be eliminated, a teach-out plan for the existing students needs to be put in place to conform to the NWCCU accreditation requirements. This case will likely set the precedent for how elimination or merger of other programs will move forward and is therefore of utmost importance.