

APRCA Committee Report to Faculty Senate – February 6, 2023

Committee Charge

Faculty Senate created the Ad-hoc Committee on Academic Program Reduction and Curricular Adjustments in October 2020 with the following charge: 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 town hall 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 22 of the PSU-AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement

In April 2021, Faculty Senate extended the charge of the committee to June 2022. In May 2022, Faculty Senate further extended the charge of the committee to June 2023.

APRCA Guiding Principles and Priorities

In February 2021, as part of Phase 1 of the Program Review/Reduction Process (PRRP), the APRCA committee crafted a set of Guiding Principles and Priorities (GPP) to complement the driver and value metrics formulated by the Provost's Program Reduction Working Group. Among other things, the GPP outlines the importance of communication, transparency, and consulting with stakeholders before making decisions.

1. Equitable and meaningful engagement of all stakeholders
2. Focus on student access, quality learning experiences, and completion
3. Our work will change; let's make it for the better
4. Research and data informed decision making
5. Seek feedback prior to decision making
6. Devote resources to the Reimagining process
7. Transparent process and open communication with all stakeholders

Committee Membership

In 2022-2023, the committee had designees representing five key Constitutional committees, including Vicki Reitenauer (Steering), Mitch Cruzan (Budget), Peter Chaille (Undergraduate

Curriculum Committee), Natalie Vasey (Graduate Council), and Joan Petit (Educational Policy Committee). The committee also included five members appointed by the Committee on Committees: Jones Estes, Kellie Gallagher, Theresa McCormick, Michelle Swinehart (diversity advocate), and Derek Tretheway. In addition, four consultants were appointed by OAA: Sy Adler, Vanelda Hopes, Amy Mulkerin, and Jeff Robinson. Jones Estes and Vicki Reitenauer co-chair the Committee.

Report to Faculty Senate on February 6, 2023

Since the Committee's last written report to Faculty Senate for the December 5, 2022 meeting, APRCA has met once, on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

Provost Susan Jeffords met with the Committee for the bulk of the meeting time. During the provost's visit, she shared, and the committee asked questions about, the following:

- The five units required to submit PRRP Phase III reports have done so. Provost Jeffords indicated that the reports were robust and reflective of productive approaches that the units are already doing. A lot of strong work went into the reports, which reflect innovative thinking around alternatives to current organizational arrangements and curriculum.
- The Provost has scheduled meetings over the coming weeks with each of the five units, as well as the deans (as a group). These meetings are scheduled to be concluded by February 15.
- Soon after these meetings conclude, the Provost will return to APRCA and the Budget Committee to discuss her take on the reports and the outcomes of PRRP she intends to propose.
- The Provost intends to confirm those proposed outcomes by March 1.

Following the Provost's visit, the Committee debriefed the conversation. One member noted that UCC and GC are continuing to do the work of curriculum review and presentation of proposed curricular changes to Faculty Senate, and that proposed changes (from both the scrutinized and other units) themselves have budgetary impacts and implications. How are these being considered as part of the overall aims of PRRP, especially for units that are not part of PRRP? Another member reminded us that "curricular" is part of the name of this ad hoc committee, and that this should be brought forward.

While APRCA as a committee has not seen the Phase III reports, some members of the Committee know about some of the proposed changes, and many of us have heard rumors about others. One member of the Committee wondered about issues of equity with regard to some of the changes we expect to be part of units' proposals, and how equity (as a significant element of APRCA's Guiding Principles and Priorities) are being taken into account at this stage of the process.

The next APRCA meeting will take place twice (on Wednesday, February 1 and Monday, February 6), to accommodate the schedules of Committee members, and will focus on the Faculty Committee Conversations initiated by Faculty Senate Steering Committee. While the Committee is not currently scheduled to meet with any of the scrutinized units, we welcome contact with any/all of the units, should they so desire it.

Respectfully submitted,

Jones Estes & Vicki Reitenauer, APRCA co-chairs
25 January 2023