

Portland State University Faculty Senate Motion

Ad Hoc Committee: Academic Program Reductions and Curricular Adjustments

Background, rationale, and preliminary discussions

Portland State University anticipates budget cuts due to continued declining enrollments and, more immediately, the projected reductions in the Public University Support Fund caused by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent wildfire management in Oregon. With the Provost's encouragement and support, the Faculty Senate authorized a committee to work during the summer of 2020 to plan how to respond to the budget situation in a way to maximize shared governance and faculty participation. The committee's work is summarized in the [report of the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Summer Research Committee on Academic Program Examination / Reorganization](#).

Motion presented by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Drawing on the summer committee's report, the Senate moves to create an Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Program Reductions and Curricular Adjustments.

This committee will:

- **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 Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Program Reductions and Curricular Adjustments will consist of one (1) designee each from Steering Committee, Budget Committee, Educational Policy Committee, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and Graduate Council. In addition, it will include one (1) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion advocate and up to four (4) other members chosen by the Committee on Committees. The committee will work closely with up to four (4) administration consultants proposed by the Provost.

The committee will serve through the end of the 2020-2021 academic year. The committee will present reports to the Senate in December 2020 and June 2021.

Presented to the Senate on October 5, 2020

Approved/ Denied by the Senate on _____