

Portland State University Faculty Senate Motion

Foregrounding the APRCA Guiding Principles and Priorities for Program Review/Reduction Process

Note from Secretary: The original motion was on the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on 6 June 2022. The item was postponed until the meeting on 13 June 2022. An amendment to the motion was approved, and then the amended motion was approved.

Motion as amended and approved by Faculty Senate, 13 June 2022

The Senate moves 1) to endorse the APRCA committee's Guiding Principles and Priorities; 2) to request a written response from OAA with a detailed plan for how the Guiding Principles and Priorities will be upheld during Phase III of the PRRP, due to APRCA and Faculty Senate Steering Committee by September 16, 2022; and 3) to pause PRRP until AHC-APRCA and Steering Committee review and the Faculty Senate approves the plan provided by OAA for phase III.

Background, rationale, and preliminary discussions

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. The committee shared these principles with the faculty at a series of college- and school-level "ReImagine" meetings during the spring of 2021. Among other things, the GPP outlines the importance of communication, transparency, and consulting with stakeholders before making decisions.

The APRCA [Guiding Principles and Priorities](#) urge

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

During the fall of 2021, using data from the driver and value metrics, OAA selected 18 units to write narratives in Phase 2 of the PRRP process. The units delivered their reports in March of 2022. In April of 2022, the Provost and Deans of four colleges (COTA, COE, CLAS, and CUPA) selected 5 of the 18 units to write strategic plans for Phase 3 of the PRRP process.

The Chairs of these 5 units, members of the APRCA committee, and members of the Faculty Senate Steering Committee feel that the latter phases of the PRRP process have lacked the clarity and transparency around criteria for analysis and evaluation called for in the Guiding Principles. In specific, they ask, a) What evaluation was applied to the quantitative driver metrics to determine why the 18 units were selected to write Phase 2 narratives? b) What criteria were used to

evaluate the qualitative data from the Phase 2 narratives to select units to write Phase 3 plans? And c) What are the goals of the Phase 3 plans and by what criteria will they be evaluated?

Additionally, although the PRRP initially aimed to include strategic planning to position PSU well for the future, the process, as it has unfolded, seems to have devolved into being mainly a budget-cutting exercise.

APRCA and Senate Steering put before the Faculty Senate the following resolution:

Original motion presented by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee

The Senate moves 1) to endorse the APRCA committee's Guiding Principles and Priorities; 2) to request a written response from OAA with a detailed plan for how the Guiding Principles and Priorities will be upheld during Phase III of the PRRP, due to APRCA and Faculty Senate Steering Committee by September 16, 2022; and 3) to urge OAA and the Deans to foreground these principles in practice during the Phase III of the Program Review/ Reduction Process to maximize consultation, participation, communication, and transparency.

Presented to the Senate on June 6, 2022