

Portland State University Faculty Senate Resolution
5 June 2023

Resolution urging the Administration to join the PSU Faculty to protect students' pathways to degree completion

Resolution presented by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Program Review and Curricular Adjustment, Faculty Senate Budget Committee, and Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Be it resolved that the PSU Faculty Senate urges the administration to join the PSU faculty in protecting our curriculum and our core DEI mission by ensuring that:

- established shared governance processes and structures for curricular/program review are followed and respected when considering reductions and adjustments based on budget reductions at university, college, and/or departmental levels;
- curricular reductions and adjustments based on budget reductions happening at university, college, and/or departmental levels are pursued *only after* using a focused DEI lens, namely the Guiding Principles and Priorities developed by APRCA; through careful collaborative review, in accordance with established shared governance processes, of the impact to programs, students, and the University's DEI goals and mission; and in compliance with the relevant articles of the Collective Bargaining Agreement of the American Association of University Professors, along with prior agreements made with AAUP to guarantee that personnel changes, including retirements, will not be used as justification for the closure of programs and/or degree pathways; and
- a comprehensive and fully transparent assessment of the financial impact of any and all reductions be provided to the Faculty Senate.

Background, rationale, and preliminary discussions

Whereas

- The curriculum is the primary responsibility of the PSU Faculty, who, according to the PSU Faculty Constitution, has power to act on the establishment, abolition, or major alteration of the structure or educational

function of departments or of programs.

- PSU strongly believes in shared governance values, and the PSU Faculty has created spaces to collaborate with the administration in reviewing our programs and looking for creative and effective solutions to face our current financial challenges.
- Curricular reductions need to be implemented only upon careful review and consideration of impact to programs, educational quality, student success, and our PSU mission.
- Ad-hoc course reductions and adjustments based on budget reductions are happening at college-department level yearly outside of Faculty Senate awareness, and are de facto reducing programs and threatening their structure and educational function.
- Any course reductions happening without careful review through a DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) lens may disproportionately affect underrepresented students and threaten our PSU DEI goals, including our initiative to become a Hispanic Serving Institution.
- The Ad-hoc Committee on Academic Program Reduction and Curricular Adjustments has sought to provide a meaningful platform for collaboration around program review and reduction during AY 21, 22, and 23, and has issued a comprehensive report on its efforts.