

Curricular Governance Structure for eVersity Programs

Program: The bundle of degrees and certificates and credentials offered by eVersity in an area, defined in the initial curriculum proposal and added to or subtracted from in subsequent Program Changes, will be governed by a Program Assembly and a Program Committee as defined below.

Curriculum and Academic Policy Review Process: Curriculum and other policy decisions will be developed by the Program Committee, reviewed by the eVersity Program Administrator (see below), and then passed on to the appropriate UALR curriculum Council. From the appropriate UALR curriculum Council, the matter will be passed on to the curriculum process as detailed in the Constitution of the Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Program Assembly: The faculty supporting each separate eVersity Program (see above) shall constitute a Program Assembly. This Program Assembly will consist of all faculty members, whether from UALR or elsewhere, whose credentials have been validated by the Program Committee (see below) and who are participating in the program through teaching courses and advising students. It will also include the faculty of the Back-stop department (see below). Members of this Assembly may initiate Program Changes and participate in governing the program. The Program Assembly will serve as a Committee of the Whole in lieu of a department faculty.

Program Committee: A five-member program committee (PC) will be elected to govern the Program and its curriculum, and it will serve in lieu of a College Curriculum Committee. The Program Committee will maintain the Credential Policy (see below) and will forward curriculum matters to the Curriculum and Academic Policy Review Process (see above).

Members of the PC will serve two-year staggered terms. One member of the PC will be elected from the faculty of the Back-stop department by the faculty of the Back-stop department (see below). Four members of the PC will be elected from the Program Assembly by the members of the Program Assembly. At least two members of the PC must not be part of the Back-stop department (see Minimum Program Faculty below).

The PC will develop an assessment plan and submit it to the Curriculum and Academic Policy Review Process (see above).

Program Committee Chair: The PC will elect a chair from its membership. The chair will serve a one-year term. The Program Committee Chair will chair PC meetings and will serve as the conduit for information between the eVersity Program Administrator (see below) and the Program Assembly. The Program Committee Chair will also chair the Program Assembly. The Program Committee Chair will serve in lieu of the department chair for academic offenses and grade appeals.

Back-stop Department: A UALR department will serve as the Back-stop for each Program (see Program above). Should the formal relationship between UALR and eVersity dissolve, this faculty will have the responsibility to “Teach Out” (the HLC term for transitioning out programs) students who have started in the Program but not yet completed, as well as to wind down the curriculum.

Initial selection or replacement of the Back-stop department will follow the Curriculum and Academic Policy Review Process as a Program Change.

[Implementation Language, not part of policy] Initial Program Committee: The faculty who developed the initial Program [in December 2014 and early 2015] and one member from the planned Back-stop department will form the Initial Program Committee. This Initial Program Committee will

submit the initial curriculum to the Curriculum and Academic Policy Review Process and validate sufficient faculty credentials to allow a viable Program Assembly to form.

eVersity Program Administrator: An administrator will be appointed to oversee resource allocation, course assignment, and other administrative aspects of the Program. The appointment process will be developed in the associated Memorandum of Understanding. This administrator will serve in lieu of a dean in the curricular process.

Minimum Program Faculty: If there are too few instructors to teach the courses in a Program, the Program will suspend without a Program Change, and the Back-stop faculty will teach out those students who have started the program. This suspension may be halted by curricular action of the Back-stop department.

Credential Policy: Each eVersity Program must develop a policy detailing minimum credentials required to be eligible to teach in the Program. The original policy and Modifications to the Credential Policy must be submitted to the Curriculum and Academic Policy Review Process as a Program Change. For faculty of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, professor, distinguished professor, and university professor rank who are full-time faculty members at any University of Arkansas campus, the Credential Policy should review only appropriateness of degrees by subject and level to the Program. For any other credentials, the Credential Policy should be more detailed.

Validating Faculty to Participate in the Program: Any faculty member who wants to teach classes in the Program (including members of the Back-stop department) will submit credentials to the PC (once), which will decide by applying the Credential Policy.

Appeal of credential decision: Credential decisions may be appealed to the Program Assembly.

National Accreditation: For programs that may impact national accreditation in UALR programs, such as business or social work, the faculty of those accredited programs must write a letter indicating how program changes will impact their accreditation (if at all) to accompany any Program Change.

Advising students: Students will be advised by eVersity staff as detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Equivalency of Courses: eVersity courses and UALR courses may be similar enough that courses may be automatically transferred between an eVersity program and a UALR program. The PC who is overseeing the eVersity course and the UALR department faculty offering the UALR course may establish or modify an equivalency between courses by submitting a joint curriculum change document to the curriculum process. The eVersity curriculum change will follow the Curriculum and Academic Policy Review Process. The UALR curriculum change will follow the curriculum process described in the Constitution of the Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Once an equivalency has been established, it may be rescinded by curriculum change from either UALR department faculty or eVersity Program Assembly.

Once eVersity becomes independently accredited by HLC or equivalent accrediting body, these equivalencies will be maintained.

Modification: This document can be modified as a piece of legislation through majority vote of the Faculty Senate (see Article III of the Constitution of the Assembly of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock).