



FACULTY SENATE

TO: University Assembly
FROM: Faculty Senate
DATE: January 31, 2020
CC: Ann Bain, Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Provost,
Christy Drale, Chancellor
SUBJ: Academic Planning Retrenchment Ad Hoc Committee

In coordination with the Provost, the Executive Committee has identified a process by which the Faculty Senate will engage in the planned Academic Planning Retrenchment. Below outlines the committee that will conduct the 'ground work', the charge for that committee, and the process for bringing proposals to the senate to consider per the Board of Trustees Policy on Retrenchment (405.5).

Academic Planning Retrenchment Ad Hoc Committee

This ad hoc committee will serve in an advisory capacity that raises questions, frames issues, and guides analyses concerning the university's overall size, shape, and long-range academic direction. Its most immediate goal is to identify academic inefficiencies and possible program deletions in order to address major resource allocations for academic or support services (per BoT 405.5). This committee will develop proposals on the following matters:

1. Closing or combining academic programs that have a history of low-viability per ADHE definitions;
2. Improving efficiency of viable but inefficient programs;
3. Improving efficiency in curricular areas that transcend individual programs (i.e., social sciences, STEM, humanities, etc.);
4. Developing an academic plan that prioritizes the closing, reorganization, or improvement of programs that are trending towards the viability threshold in the next five years (need metrics-graduates over the past five years, low enrollment classes in the major, head count, percent of adjuncts teaching courses versus full time faculty, SSCHs per student); and
5. Re-allocating instructional resources (including faculty and staff) as a result of program closures.

This committee will develop a preliminary report outlining their findings by February 21st. Final proposals must be presented to the UA Little Rock Faculty Senate no later than April 1, 2020. Membership of the ad hoc committee will be composed of the following:

- The President of the Faculty Senate or designee
- The Chair of the Graduate Council or designee
- The Chair of the Undergraduate Council or designee
- The Chair of the Core Council or designee
- Six faculty senators representing the five on-campus academic colleges and the Ottenheimer Library

The resulting membership must include representation from STEM, the Humanities, the Arts, the Social Sciences curricular areas, at least one graduate faculty, and one non-tenure track or untenured tenure track faculty.

In order to conduct their analysis, ex officio representatives (without vote) will include:

- The Director of OIR
- The Budget director
- The UA Little Rock General Counsel
- The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- The Registrar

Process:

Proposals developed by the ad hoc committee will be distributed to the Faculty Senate for independent review and recommendation. Meanwhile, a sub-set of this committee will also serve on a larger committee that will represent both the academic and administrative constituents of Academic Affairs, including the deans. This group will also be generating proposals. The coordination across the two groups will ensure they are not working at cross-purposes and minimize a duplication of efforts. Proposals developed by this larger group will also be distributed to the Faculty Senate for review and recommendation. At the next scheduled senate meeting, the senate will generate a summary of the debate and resulting recommendations will be added to each proposal moving forward. From the Faculty Senate, the proposals with added Faculty Senate recommendations will be forwarded to the Chancellor for final review and decision making.

If the Chancellor's decision on any proposal involves the deletion or modification of academic programs, the curriculum process shall follow that defined in Board of Trustees Policy 620.1 (Addition, Deletion, Suspension, and Modification of Academic Programs) and Article III of the Constitution of the Assembly.