



Faculty Senate

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March 20, 2017

Dear Provost Miller and Associate Vice President Alexander,

This letter is in regards to your request for the Faculty Senate's review and recommendation regarding each of the 12 academic programs currently being reviewed and considered for possible elimination.


UW Regulation 6-43 states that . . . *"Within 60 days of the receipt of the proposal and responses from the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Faculty Senate shall submit to the Vice President for Academic Affairs its written review and its recommendation regarding elimination of the academic program."* While the regulation mandates Faculty Senate participation at this stage of the process, it does not specify the procedures for senate action. The Executive Committee decided that the appropriate course was for reviews and recommendations to be drafted by the Academic Planning Committee (APC). The APC was charged with the task of reviewing the 12 proposals in a timely fashion.

During the last two months, the APC met to evaluate these academic program elimination proposals. The challenges and stresses they faced were large, given the workload of 12 proposals and a limited amount of time. The reviews and recommendations of the APC are compiled into one report that was completed shortly before Spring Break. The content of the APC Report was considered by the senate Executive Committee over the break. The Executive Committee met today to discuss the APC Report, and how to proceed. The committee was impressed by the thoughtfulness, completeness, fairness, and professionalism of the APC Report. It unanimously agreed to send the unaltered APC Report to you as the Senate's official response on each of the 12 proposals. It is attached with this letter for your consideration. The members of the Academic Planning Committee deserve recognition and appreciation for producing this report.

According to UW Regulation 6-701, *"the Faculty Senate shall seek to determine and establish educational and academic policies which promote and protect the interests and welfare of the University community and further the full and free development and preservation of scholarly learning, teaching, and research."* This being our core credo, there is a desire by UW faculty to preserve opportunities for scholarly learning, whenever possible. We hope that the final decisions made by Academic Affairs will take that into consideration.

As we consider eliminating programs, I am struck by the thought that it takes more time to create a new academic degree program than it does to eliminate one.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' at the beginning.

Scott R. Shaw, Chair, UW Faculty Senate
Professor, Department of Ecosystem Science
University of Wyoming