

Proposal to Academic Program Reorganization, Consolidation, Reduction and Discontinuance

Instructions:

- This template is provided to assist you in developing a proposal for programs identified for reorganization, consolidation, reduction and discontinuance.
- The template is only a guide. Feel free to add additional information to support your proposal and to delete non-applicable items.
- Proposals not including attachments should be limited to **5** pages.
- The proposals are due to Provost Anne Alexander by Tuesday, **December 1, 2020**.
- We are here to help! There are a number of resources available for assistance:
 - “Evaluation Tool for Degree Granting Unit Reviews.” This document provides guidelines for programs that are being recommended for Reduced Investment/Elimination, Reorganization, or Enhanced/Stable Investment.
 - For specific data, contact the Office of Institutional Analysis (OIA), Sue Koller, Ssavor@uwyo.edu
 - For assistance with Gray Associates data on job demand, etc.; contact Jayne Pearce, JPearce@uwyo.edu
 - Refer any questions on undergraduate programs to the AVP Undergraduate Education, Steven Barrett, steveb@uwyo.edu
 - Refer any questions on graduate programs to the AVP Graduate Education, Jim Ahern, JAhern@uwyo.edu

Reference: UW Regulation 2-13, Academic Program Reorganization, Consolidation, Reduction and Discontinuance, revisions adopted 7/12/2018.

Under University Regulation 2-13, the Division of Academic Affairs presents here a proposal to...

Overview: Provide brief overview of proposal.

President Seidel has identified the themes of more digital, more entrepreneurial, more interdisciplinary and more inclusive to embed across all UW programs. What is the role of these themes in this program?

Also, please take into consideration UW Faculty Senate’s vision statement.

There are several reasons for making this recommendation (select appropriate reasons, delete those that are not applicable. **Note:** the questions provided below are from “Evaluation Tool for Degree Granting Unit Reviews.”

Each review is based on the unit level (department). Information and evaluation should apply to entire unit, including all majors, minors, graduate programs, certificate programs, and professional programs in the department.

For programs being recommended for Reduced Investment/Elimination

1. In support of elimination or disinvestment
 - a. Present and probable **future demand insufficient** to justify existing levels of support. Indications of significant decline in one or more areas over five (5) years.

- i. Number of inquiries for graduate programs
 - ii. Number of declared majors
 - ii. Number of students who complete majors or degrees (undergraduate and graduate/professional) in unit
 - iii. Student credit hours generated in lower division, upper division, professional, and/or graduate level courses in program, per FTE faculty
 - iv. Market demand for graduates of unit's programs (using Gray's data or other relevant data)
 - v. Number of tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, and fixed-term track faculty
 - vi. In case of instructional-focused programs, level of demand for courses provided
 - vii. In case of research-focused programs, quality and quantity of research, scholarly, and creative work produced
 - viii. In case of research-focused programs, level of external funding relative to availability of funding in the field
 - ix. In case of research-focused programs, total grants and grants/FTE faculty members
 - ix. Number enrolled in certificates and number of students who complete certificates, if applicable.
- b. Program has **minimal or waning international or national reputation, regional strength, of state service components.**
- c. Program **accreditation at risk**
- d. **Productivity** of program **relative to the university's investment** in faculty, staff, equipment, facilities, or other resources has declined over XX (5?) years.
- i. In case of **instructional-focused programs**, significant decline in productivity might be indicated by a decline in SCH generation of all courses per FTE faculty relative to overall UW enrollment trends, and by low level of SCH per FTE faculty in compared to UW's peer institutions or similar programs at UW.
 - ii. In case of **research-focused programs**, declining research, creative, and scholarly work relative to investment by UW
 - iii. In case of programs that consider themselves **both instructional- and research- focused**, significant decline in productivity in both areas (as outlined above in i and ii).
- e. The **combination of instructional, outreach, and research/creative productivity, or impacts on the state's cultural resources**, is substantially less than the average of UW as a whole.
- f. The program does not reflect **what land grant universities typically offer.**
- g. The unit does not engage in **substantial or productive collaborations**, curricular or otherwise, with Wyoming community colleges, or its collaborations have fallen in substance and frequency.
- f. The unit's **elimination or reduction would not substantially impair the viability of other UW programs.**

2. Indicating inadvisable to eliminate or disinvest
 - a. The unit's programs have **achieved and sustained a national or international reputation** for quality as indicated by objective external evaluations.
 - b. The unit's programs have achieved a level of **regional strength** or are **vital for state service**.
 - c. The program is **unique within the state and region and contributes to UW's distinctive character**.
 - d. The program is **essential for UW**.
 - e. The **state has invested heavily** in the unit's programs.
 - f. **Elimination would result in a substantially negative impact** on education, economic, cultural, and societal concerns in Wyoming.
 - g. **Elimination would result in significant loss of revenue** derived from contracts, grants, endowments or gifts.
 - h. UW has **significant capital investments in specialized physical plant, facilities or equipment** that cannot be directed to alternative uses.

For programs being recommended for Reorganization

1. In support of reorganization
 - a. Two or more units' programs have **sufficient overlap in subject matter and approach or disciplinary method, and a substantial similarity of affinity of objectives** such that economics of operation or improvement of quality would result from their consolidation.
 - b. The **clarity of the program's identity and function will be increased by transfer to or consolidation** with another program.
2. Indicating inadvisable to reorganize
 - a. Transfer or consolidation would **create a program sufficiently uncommon within higher education** to negatively impact recruitment and retaining of students and faculty.
 - b. Restructuring would **endanger accreditation status** of one or all of the units involved.
 - c. **Cost reduction would be so modest** as to make reorganization pointless.

For programs being recommended for Enhanced or Stable Investment

1. In support of enhanced or stable investment
 - a. Present and probable **future demand justifies increasing levels of support**.
Indications of significant increase in one or more areas over five (5) years.
 - iii. Number of inquiries for graduate programs
 - iv. Number of declared majors
 - iii. Number of students who complete majors or degrees (undergraduate and graduate/professional) in unit

- iv. Student credit hours generated in lower division, upper division, professional, and/or graduate level courses in program, per FTE faculty.
 - v. Market demand for graduates of unit's programs (using Gray's data or other relevant data)
 - vi. Number of tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, and fixed-term track faculty
 - vii. In case of instructional-focused programs, level of demand for courses provided
 - viii. In case of research-focused programs, quality and quantity of research, scholarly, and creative work produced
 - x. In case of research-focused programs, level of external funding relative to availability of funding in the field
 - xi. In case of research-focused programs, total grants and grants/FTE faculty members
 - vii. Number enrolled in certificates and number of students who complete certificates, if applicable
- b. **Program accreditation / external evaluators' objective opinions** indicate increasing quality, innovation, and targets for investment.
- c. **Strength of international or national reputation, regional strength, and/or state service is high.**
- d. **Productivity of program relative to the university's investment** in faculty, staff, equipment, facilities, or other resources has risen over five (5) years.
- i. In case of **instructional-focused programs**, significant increase in productivity might be indicated by an increase in SCH generation of all courses per FTE faculty relative to overall UW enrollment trends, and by high level of SCH per FTE faculty in compared to UW's peer institutions or similar programs at UW.
 - ii. In case of **research-focused programs**, accelerating research, creative, and scholarly work relative to investment by UW
 - iii. In case of programs that consider themselves **both instructional- and research- focused**, significant increases in productivity in both areas (as outlined above in i and ii)
- e. The **combination of instructional, outreach, and research/creative productivity, or impacts on the state's cultural resources**, is substantially less than the average of UW as a whole.
- f. The unit's programs will demonstrably **contribute to the strategic vision of UW**.
- g. The unit's program reflects **what land grant universities typically offer**.
- h. The unit engages in **substantial and structured collaborations** with other programs, such as dual, double or joint degrees and 2+2 articulation agreements with Wyoming or other community colleges

In accordance with University Regulation 2-13, this proposal is subject to review and comment by students currently enrolled in the academic program, the academic degree program's faculty and staff,

the academic degree program's current college, and the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. After reviewing submitted comments and making any necessary revisions, the Provost will submit the revised proposal, including a recommendation and supporting materials, to the Faculty Senate, ASUW Senate, Staff Senate, and the AA Deans and Directors for review and comment. The Provost will then review all submitted comments and provide a final proposal and recommendation to the President. As required by University Regulation 2-13, the President shall make a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees within a maximum period of 120 days from the date of release of this document.

Background:

Provide appropriate documentation to support the proposal.

Recommendation:

Based on the information gathered, what is recommended? Academic Program Reorganization? Consolidation? Reduction? Discontinuance?

Appendices:

Attach documents as needed to support proposal and recommendation.