

Academic Planning Committee Review of 2-13 Documents January 23, 2021

The Academic Planning Committee (APC) met on Friday January 22, 2021 to review the 2-13 documents relating to program eliminations and other restructuring. The committee has concerns relating to how to review the proposals. No guidance was given as to why programs were identified to be eliminated and how to evaluate cost savings or other measures to justify elimination.

Programs recommended for elimination: (Unanimous Vote on all)

BS Business Administration: This is an online only degree that does have good demand. However, it is being replaced with the BS Management in Human Resources online degree. There are savings with this change because the courses that were only for the Business Administration degree can be eliminated. The courses for BS Management in Human Resources are already being taught.

College of Business Minors: Minors are not programs that are normally reviewed by the APC. With reduced resources in the College of Business, the elimination of the minors is a way to strengthen their core emphasis.

Psychology Master of Arts: There have been no students in this program for several years.

Chemistry Master of Science in Teaching: There have been no students in this program for several years.

Journalism BS: This program has typically zero to two graduates per year. Students in this program can easily change to the Journalism BA degree.

History Master of Arts in Teaching: There have been no students in this program for several years.

Joint program between Veterinary Sciences and Zoology: There have been no students in this program for several years.

Community Development Focus in Agricultural and Applied Economics: This not specific program so the APC would not normally review this issue. However, it appears there would be limited impacts with the community development focus being eliminated.

BA Secondary French/German/Spanish Education: In the past five years, graduates have ranged from a low of zero to a high of four students in this program. With limited resources, regrettably we recommend elimination.

Programs the APC does not feel are under our charge:

The following three proposals are not really program eliminations and the APC fee that they fall outside this committee's responsibility. We have never looked at department or other unit reorganizations.

Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Merger: It seems like there is little cost saving with this proposal and much opposition from the departments.

Rural Health Innovation Institute: This appears to combine existing programs into one organization. However, there is no information on costs being higher or lower.

Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center: The document only talks about reorganization of the program. It does appear to operate with outside money.

Programs the APC needs more information before a recommendation:

The following two proposals affect more faculty and students. The APC need more time and information before we can give a well-reasoned recommendation. The university is working on a new strategic plan and hopefully will have more defined criteria for eliminating programs in the near future.

Creative Writing MFA: The document does not identify why this program is one proposed to be eliminated. With an average of 9.30 graduates per year, creative writing is in the top 25% of programs awarding Master's degrees. The program has 3 FTE faculty lines and is quite interdisciplinary. In addition there appears to be significant outside funding.

BA and MA in American Studies: The document does not identify why this program is one proposed to be eliminated. The APC is sympathetic to the American Studies Program since they were reviewed four years ago and have met the criteria they were asked to achieve. Yet, they are back facing elimination again. The program has significant outside funding and is interdisciplinary. Enrollments have increased since 2016 and FTE faculty is down from 6.0 to 3.5.