

Academic Program Review Council
Report to the Senate Spring 2021

Date: 28 April 2021
To: Academic Senate
From: Academic Program Review Council
Subject: Recommendations to the Academic Senate

Academic program review began at Ferris in 1988 and has continued uninterrupted since 1995. This record speaks well of the long-term commitment of Ferris faculty and administration to comprehensive program assessment and continuous quality improvement.

Each year, the Academic Program Review Council (APRC) presents recommendations for Senate consideration. The recommendations are presented in three categories – program-specific, process-related, and general.

These recommendations are the product of work performed over the course of the academic year by APRC faculty members and administrators, as well as degree program representatives. In preparation for the 2020-21 academic year, the APRC co-chairs met regularly throughout the summer with representatives from the Provost's Office to audit the list of all academic programs, recommend a revised schedule, and identify opportunities for process improvements. The APRC met weekly for two hours over Zoom throughout the Fall and Spring semesters to review submitted reports, with additional time spent reading and evaluating the reports between meetings.

All faculty members bear a responsibility not just for their own courses and programs, but also for preserving the integrity and value of the University's entire curriculum. By participating in this process, we affirm the importance of the role that faculty play in decision-making about academic programs. We would like to publicly thank the members of the 2020/2021 Academic Program Review Council. Program review is a time-consuming and challenging endeavor which council members accepted with hard work and dedication.

2020-2021 APRC Members

Katie Axford – College of Pharmacy (Co-Chair)
Alex Cartwright – College of Business (Co-Chair)
Michele Harvey – College of Engineering Technology
Varun Singireddy – College of Business (formerly College of Education & Human Services)
Stacy Anderson – FLITE Librarian
Qian Ding – College of Pharmacy
Teresa Bailey – College of Pharmacy (representing Michigan College of Optometry)
Namita Giri – College of Pharmacy (At Large)
Mandy Seiferlein – Academic Affairs (Ex Officio)

Sincerely,

Katie Axford and Alex Cartwright, APRC Co-Chairs

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Summary of 2020-2021 Work

The following operational tasks were completed by the APRC co-chairs during Summer 2020 to support the work of the APRC:

- Established a co-chair model to efficiently and effectively lead the APRC
- Established an APRC email account and SharePoint site to centralize and archive APRC communications
- Conducted an audit of all academic programs in order to re-establish a review schedule for all programs
- Created an electronic form for academic programs to submit requests for extensions
- Worked with the Provost's Office to establish a new form within Nuventive Improve to accommodate better tracking of the APR process

The following programs were reviewed by the APRC during the Fall 2020 semester:

- Hospitality Management (BS), Restaurant and Food Industry Management (AAS), Event Management (Minor), Hotel/Restaurant and Food Industry Management (Minor), Club Management (Certificate), Event Management (Certificate), Restaurant and Food Industry Management (Certificate), and Ski Resort Management (Certificate)
- Integrative Studies (BS)
- Military Science (Minor)
- Optometry (OD)
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Product Design Engineering Technology (BS) and Product Design (Certificate)

The following programs were reviewed by the APRC during the Spring 2021 semester:

- Allied Health Sciences (BS), Allied Health Sciences (AAS), and COHP Core
- Doctorate in Community College Leadership (EdD)
- Elementary Education (BS), Secondary Education (BS), Biology Teaching for Secondary Education (Minor), Chemistry Teaching for Secondary Education (Minor), Early Childhood for Elementary Education (Minor), English Education (Minor), Geography Teaching (Minor), History Education (Minor), Integrated Science for Elementary Education (Minor), Language Arts for Elementary Education (Minor), Mathematics for Elementary Education (Minor), Mathematics Teaching (Minor), Physical Education Teaching (Minor), Spanish Teaching (Minor), and Speech Communication Teaching (Minor)
- Health Information Management (BS) and Health Information Technology (AAS)
- Liberal Arts (AA)
- Nursing (RN-to-BSN, BSN, and MSN), Nursing Practice (DNP), and Nursing Education (Graduate Certificate)
- Plastics Engineering Technology (BS), Rubber Engineering Technology (BS), Plastics and Polymer Engineering Technology (AAS), and Polymer Materials Technology (Minor)
- Social Work (AA, BSW, and MSW)

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The following programs were scheduled for review during AY2020/21, but were excused from reporting as the APRC was notified they have suspended enrollment and are pending closure:

- Cancer Information Management (Certificate)
- Lean Healthcare (Minor and Certificate)
- Medical Informatics (Minor)

The following programs were scheduled for review during AY2020-2021 but did not submit a complete report by the established deadline. These programs have been asked to report in Fall 2021:

- Health Care Systems Administration (BS) and Long-Term Care (Certificate)

General Recommendations

General recommendations of the APRC are intended to accompany and complement the recommendations for specific academic programs. They also address policy issues broadly relevant to program review.

1. The APRC recommends continued investigation and consideration of the opportunities to integrate Nuventive Improve and Canvas in an effort to streamline documentation of assessment data.
2. The APRC recommends routinely offering training/professional development related to the utilization of the Nuventive Improve platform.
3. Some inconsistencies were noted between the courses appearing on program check sheets and those assigned to programs in Nuventive Improve. The APRC recommends an audit of Nuventive Improve to ensure that all program core courses are assigned in Nuventive Improve so that all course assessment data populates the required reports.
4. Response rates to the Graduate Follow-Up Survey administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Testing are consistently low. As many programs rely on this data as a metric of graduate success, the APRC recommends collaboration across the University to improve response rates to allow for more meaningful interpretation.
5. The APRC recommends further exploration and development of marketing and recruitment strategies to support program enrollment.
6. The APRC recommends further exploration and development of services offered by the Office of Graduate Studies to support the students enrolled in graduate and professional programs (e.g., graduate writing center).

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Suggestions for APR Process Improvements

These recommendations are intended to make the academic program review process more efficient, effective, and consistent.

1. Program-specific recommendations will be presented to the Academic Senate on a rolling basis throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, as reviews are completed by the APRC. This process was piloted by the APRC during the Spring 2021 semester.
2. The *Academic Program Review: A Guide for Participants* document underwent significant revision during AY2019/20. Based on the experience during AY2020/21 and feedback from programs that participated in the review process, minor clarifying edits have been suggested and are provided for Senate review and approval.