

**Summary of Responses from Vice President Harris to the Academic Program  
Review Recommendations  
April 4, 2006**

1. This document is a summary, prepared by the Academic Program Review Council (APRC), of the seven-page memorandum sent to Senate President Adnan Dakkuri by Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Harris on March 1, 2006. The memorandum was sent in response to the recommendations presented by APRC and passed by the Senate on November 15, 2005.
2. The entire document, in hard copy, is available for review in the Academic Senate office in CSS 208-A. **Bold=APRC Recommendation; Normal=VPAA Response.**
3. General Recommendations:
  - a. **Need for Culture of Assessment:** VPAA's Office has taken many steps in this direction, including creating an assessment database, revising YARs to additionally emphasize assessment, and assigning oversight responsibility to Associate VP Cullen.
  - b. **Increased Staffing in Institutional Research and Testing:** This concern has been forwarded to the unit's division, Student Affairs.
  - c. **Training for Properly Preparing YARs:** A regular training program to accomplish this began in Academic Affairs in Fall 2005.
  - d. **Need for Accountability in Academic Affairs in Implementation of APRC and Other Assessment Recommendations:** VPAA Harris strongly affirms his commitment to reviewing recommendations with deans and department heads and responding to the Senate in a timely manner.
  - e. **Need for Quality Standards in Distance Education Courses and Adjunct-Taught Courses at Remote Sites:** Randy Vance of FCTL is heading up a committee to address this and related issues. The recommendations should be out this semester.
  - f. **Improve Market Analysis for New Program Sites and Degrees:** The University uses Eduprise to conduct market research for new programs.
  - g. **Without Diminishing the Importance of Enrollment, Attend More to Quality in Programs:** This recommendation is being addressed through the assessment initiative mentioned in (a).
  - h. **Reassign Available Classroom Space to Programs Needing It:** Some buildings (FLITE, CSS) are not available for classes. A review indicates that the problem may not be space, but "an overabundance of courses taught in a limited timeframe within the scheduling matrix."
  - i. **Departments Need to Plan so that One-Person Programs Have Back-Up Staffing if Needed:** A hiring cycle based on needs demonstrated through the growth incentive model, planning, and other data sources is now in place.
  - j. **Degree Programs Should Prepare Curriculum Maps for the Purpose of Coverage Assurance and Overlap Prevention:** This suggestions will be taken up in the colleges. Where degree program graduation requirements have been reduced this past year the problem has also been addressed.
  - k. **Reduce Instances of Courses Where the Same Material is Taught in Two or More Different Courses at the Same Level:** The UCC should be monitoring this problem.
  - l. **All Degree Programs Should Have Advisory Committees:** This decision must be made by program faculty.
  - m. **CAS Needs to Study Two Questions: (1) How can Needs of Majors and General Education Students Best Be Met in a Department's Coursework, (2) What Is the distinction Between Upper and Lower Division Courses:** CAS is setting up an ad hoc committee to study this issue.
4. Recommendations for Academic Programs:
  - a. **Auto Body:** Recommendation to close program accepted and will be taken to BOT in Summer 2006.
  - b. **Architecture:** Program is following recommendation to consider options in sustainable design for a four year program. On basis of recommendation, a half-time clerical position has been assigned to the program.
  - c. **Facilities Management:** Noted equipment needs have been addressed through minor caps allocations. Where possible, faculty have also been encouraged to seek equipment funding through the Perkins program and through requests to the VPAA's office.

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- d. Construction Programs:** Faculty and administration determined that the recommended additional faculty line be added only if the program moves off campus. An additional \$20,000 has been allocated to faculty development.
- e. Biotechnology:** Recommendations made to more carefully nurture students who could be successful in the program and stimulate interest by developing a new entry-level course are being carried out by the new program coordinator.
- f. History:** Recommendations to revise the curriculum to better meet the needs of both General Education and history major students are being carried out with the introduction of new 200-level courses. The program is working to add members to its advisory board.
- g. Ornamental Horticulture:** In response to the recommendations, faculty will be added to the program based on the growth incentive model. In addition, a market analysis will be conducted regarding the feasibility of a four-year degree.
- h. Public Administration:** In response to the recommendation, the program is planning to use alumni to refer students to the program (this is happening in other CAS programs as well).
- i. Psychology:** In response to the recommendation, the program has reviewed its course prerequisites according to national standards and found that it follows national norms.
- j. CIS:** In response to recommendations, the program is creating a focus group to consider a strategy to identify and capture employer data.
- k. Human Resource Management:** In response to recommendations, the program is discussing requiring internships, revising its program brochure, proceeding with articulation agreements, and participating in a discussion of the Business Core.
- l. Marketing:** In response to recommendations, the program is discussing requiring internships.
- m. ISM:** In response to recommendations, the program is creating a focus group to consider a strategy to identify and capture employer data. Also, the program is implementing a marketing initiative.
- n. Medical Technology:** In response to the recommendation, the Interim Dean is requesting a full-time temporary position for the program.
- o. Elementary Education:** In response to the recommendation, the program is searching for a Flint-Livingston County coordinator. In addition, the growth incentive model has resulted in the program being given a new position for which a search will begin in Fall 2006.
- p. Early Childhood Education:** In response to recommendations, the program has received an additional classroom from the Dean of COEHS. New positions will be awarded based on the growth incentive model.