Academic Program Review Committee  
Faculty Senate Report  
April 19, 2018

2017/2018 Committee Members:
Marilyn Barbour (chair), Matt Bodah, Anthony Rolle, Susanne Menden-Deuer, Susan Rattan, Mayrai Gindy, William Gordon, Ruitang Deng
Recognition to: Veronica Walsh, IR, coordinator of the Central Data Report

Committee Charge:
5.86.10 The Academic Program Review Committee (APRC) shall develop and maintain the academic program review instrument. The committee shall coordinate the administration of the review, oversee the collection of data, and compile and disseminate information resulting from the review as outlined in sections 8.86.10-14. When academic program reviews are conducted, the committee shall serve as a resource to departments and programs being reviewed. The committee shall receive and respond to comments regarding the program review process, including, but not limited to, the academic program review instrument.

Background:
To date, the University’s Academic Program Review (APR) has consisted of three elements:
1) Data collected centrally and distributed through institutional research (Central Data Report)
2) Data collected by departments/units biennially using an electronic survey (Chair Survey)
3) Self-Study, which is performed every six years and has external review. The data collection elements of APR have the primary function of providing longitudinal data for the unit’s self-study.

2017-2018 Activities of the APRC:
Ongoing: Implementation of Self-Studies by several Departments and Programs. APRC provides information and assistance to department chairs and program directors scheduled for self-studies. Based upon discussions with chairs and deans, appropriate changes have been made to the original APR schedule. Updated APR materials are found on the Faculty Senate website.

1) Spring/Summer 2017: Participation in NEASC self-study re: Academic Program Review
2) October 2017: APRC meeting with NEASC site-visit team; APR received positively
3) Fall 2017: Committee review of current Chair Survey; Questionnaire to participating Dept Chairs/Program Directors
4) March 2018: Release of 8th Annual Central Data Report to Department Chairs and Deans
5) Spring 2018: Committee evaluation of Chair Questionnaire data and decision to discontinue Chair Survey, with substitution of a guidance document for biennial data collection (completion date fall 2018):

APRC Biennial Departmental Data Collection Guideline

The URI Academic Program Review Committee (APRC) is charged with guiding the process of Academic Program Review at the University of Rhode Island. This process includes data collection at the University level (annual) and at the Department level (biennial), as well as a unit Self-Study, intended every 6 years.

Since 2012, Departments have performed 3 biennial data collections (“Chair Surveys”). The process has used SurveyMonkey™, with responses provided back to departments as excel files. The APRC recently surveyed department and program chairs who had participated in these Chair Surveys to determine the effectiveness and usability of the process. While data was used by several departments, there was a concern of extra work, difficulty in obtaining accurate data and redundancy of effort. A large majority of chairs asked that departments be allowed to determine their own data collections for purposes of Academic Program Review.

Therefore, as of 2018, the APRC will no longer administer the Chair Survey but instead will provide chairs, program directors and deans biennial reminders for unit data collection with recommendations for content. This process will remain in place until alternative data collection processes are initiated by the Provost’s Office. The Central Data Report, with its benchmarking data from the Delaware Study will continue to be provided by Institutional Research on an annual basis.
**Completed Self-Studies since 2014**

- Department of Political Science
- Department of Economics
- Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- Department of English
- Department of Communication Studies
- Department of Writing and Rhetoric
- School of Education
- Program in Film Media
- Department of Art and Art History
- Department of Physics
- College of Pharmacy
- Department of Biological Sciences
- Department of Cell and Molecular Biology
- Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science
- Department of Geosciences
- Department of Marine Affairs
- Department of Natural Resources Science
- Department of Plant Sciences and Entomology

**Completed External Review 2016/17**
- Department of History
- College of Nursing

**Ongoing Self-Studies in 2017/2018**
- Program in Africana Studies
- Program in Gender and Women’s Studies
- Department of Chemistry
- Department of Computer Science and Statistics
- Department of Music (2017-2019)
- Graduate School of Library and Information Science
- Graduate School of Oceanography
- Department of Human Development and Family Studies
- Department of Kinesiology
- Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design

The link to all materials for Academic Program Review can be found on the Faculty Senate webpage: [http://web.uri.edu/facsen/committees/academic-program-review-committee/](http://web.uri.edu/facsen/committees/academic-program-review-committee/)

For questions, contact the committee chair:
Marilyn Barbour ([mbarbour@uri.edu](mailto:mbarbour@uri.edu))

For questions regarding Central Data Reports provided by IR, contact: Veronica Walsh ([vwalsh@etal.uri.edu](mailto:vwalsh@etal.uri.edu))

4/11/18