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 Communicative Disorders

Department of Economics

Department of Mathematics

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Department of Journalism

Department of English

Department of Landscape Architecture

Department of Communication Studies

Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature

Department of Writing and Rhetoric

College of Business Administration

School of Education

Department of Physical Therapy

Program in Film Media

Department of Theatre

Department of Art and Art History

Department of Philosophy

Department of Physics

College of Business Administration

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/

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

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

4/11/18