

ADDITION, DELETION, SUSPENSION, REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

I. Purpose

The approval of the Board of Trustees is required for the addition, deletion, suspension, or significant modification¹ of academic programs.² The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for any such changes and for the ongoing review of existing academic programs.

II. Academic Program Reviews

Each campus³ shall be responsible for reviewing all established academic programs to evaluate whether any changes in the program are warranted. Two types of review shall be required for all established academic programs:

- (1) a review of the annual report of low productivity programs originating in the office of the chief academic officer of the campus, and
- (2) a periodic substantive evaluation of each academic program on a rotating schedule not to exceed 10 years.

Each campus shall establish guidelines and criteria to implement the substantive evaluation. Such guidelines and criteria shall be consistent with any applicable accreditation requirements, reviewed by the campus governance body⁴ and the chief academic officer, approved by the Chancellor, and furnished to the President. A recommendation for deletion, suspension, or significant expansion or modification of any program made as a result of either type of review shall be reviewed by the faculty of the program involved, the administrative head of the college, school, or other unit in which the program is located, the campus governance body, the chief academic officer, and the Chancellor. The Chancellor will forward his/her recommendations to the President who will report the results of the campus deliberation and make a recommendation to the Board for action.

¹A net change of more than fifteen credit hours in any twelve-month period.

²An academic program is a curriculum leading to a certificate, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, specialist degree, or graduate degree.

³ For purpose of this policy, the term “campus” includes not only any traditional “brick and mortar” campus but also any wholly online academic institution that is part of the System.

⁴ The review by a campus governance body is only required when an institution has a governance body and the review is required pursuant to the campus governance documents.

III. Addition of Programs

Guidelines for proposing new academic programs shall be developed by each campus and approved by the campus governance body, chief academic officer, and Chancellor and submitted to the President. Such guidelines must provide for review of proposed programs by the program or departmental faculty, college, school, or other sub-unit in which the program will be given, the campus governance body, the chief academic officer, and the Chancellor. If the Chancellor approves a proposal, it shall be forwarded to the President along with his/her own recommendations to the Board of Trustees for action. If the Board disapproves of the proposal, it shall be returned to the Chancellor for further action, if any, consistent with Board and campus policies and procedures.

IV. Board or President Initiated Program Deletions

The Board of Trustees reserves the authority to delete programs because of low demand, low productivity, a modification of the role and scope of the campus, or financial exigency (as defined in Board Policy 405.5), or upon the initiative of the President, regardless of a recommendation for such action by the campus. In all instances where the Board seeks to delete a program under this provision, the Board shall solicit comments and suggestions from the appropriate campus-wide governance body or bodies, from the Chancellor, and from the President before a decision is made.

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