

Follow Up: Changes to Academic Program Planning & Review March 2020

Goals

- Involve BOR earlier and more meaningfully
- Speed review of uncontroversial proposals and proposals related to workforce and economic development
- Strengthen follow-up review of new academic programs

Key Points of Change

- **New Request to Plan (RTP) form.** Regents will now be able to comment on, and grant planning permission for, proposals much earlier through a *Request to Plan*. This provides campuses with regental and OCHE comment and direction before faculty invest significant planning effort. OCHE staff adds important context to the RTP including labor market demand and information on related MUS academic programs.
- **New Academic Priorities and Planning Statement (APPS).** In order to provide context for Regents as they make decisions about *Requests to Plan*, campuses will submit an annual *Academic Priorities and Planning Statement*, describing their general academic strategy, their academic priorities for the coming year, and the process they use to prioritize academic programs. Campuses will also have a chance to highlight key academic proposals the BOR should expect to see in the coming year.
- **Revised review of recently launched programs.** A new follow-up process will add rigor to review of new academic programs three and five years after launch, with attention to alignment between actual and projected program enrollment. Policy outlines situations in which improvement plans and/or moratorium result from under-enrollment.
- **Revised Academic Affairs Handbook.** The OCHE Academic Affairs handbook has been revised to reflect the changes outlined above.

Process for Review and Input: November 2019 to Present

<i>January 2020</i>	OCHE convened two working groups of academic officers to develop the forms and procedures that implement the new process
<i>February 7, 2020</i>	Final draft materials sent to all academic officers for review
<i>February 12, 2020</i>	Webinar and open discussion of proposed materials with academic affairs staff systemwide
<i>February 14, 2020</i>	Final written comments due to OCHE
<i>February 19, 2020</i>	Final changes sent to academic officers and ARSA BOR committee

Moving Forward

During spring and summer 2020 OCHE and system academic officers will continue to work on:

- Review of Curriculum, Fiscal Analysis, and Centers/Institutes forms to ensure they gather the right information and address any changes to NWCCU standards
- Development of an online submission and review portal