

University of Northern Iowa

Program Vitality Committee

Academic Affairs, Spring 2018

PURPOSE

The Program Vitality Committee (PVC) is a joint committee between the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost. Through practiced shared governance, the committee will develop a new, thoughtful, and constructive process for annual and ongoing academic program review. The goal of PVC is to realize the fullest potential of our academic programs as we look to position the university for the future and to revitalize and streamline the program review process through a more timely and responsive evaluation. The review will aid programs that are positioned for expansion by helping to identify the resources needed for growth; assist programs by helping to develop sustainable pathways; and identify programs that need to be restructured or eliminated by providing support to those departments to innovate.

The PVC will be data-informed and will operate in a collaborative, inclusive, and transparent manner with the goal to support program vitality. The data used to make recommendations will include both quantitative data housed in the Data Warehouse and qualitative and quantitative data derived from multiple sources including the programs.

INITIAL COMMITTEE CHARGE

The PVC will first create an annual process for reviewing programs that will clearly outline criteria, methods for offering constructive feedback, and opens a dialog between programs and the PVC. Progress reports on improvements should reference both quantitative and qualitative data. Review of programs should assist, rather than be duplicative of the seven year, BOR-mandated Academic Program Reviews.

The PVC will also collaborate with the UCC and GCCC to create a process for reviewing the request for new programs, minors, tracks, and certificates that fits within the UNI curriculum process.

The PVC review of each program will include an awareness of UNI's limited financial resources and the need to improve enrollment efforts, including nonresident enrollment, in order to increase revenue. The reviews should acknowledge the impact of a program beyond its department and its overall importance to the central mission of the university as well as the costs and revenues (from all sources) related to the program. A draft of the review will be provided initially to the faculty in the department, the department head, and the dean of the college. The review will be advisory to the Provost and will inform decisions about faculty and staff hiring and resource allocation at the Deans' Council.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The PVC will be a standing committee and will include six faculty selected by the Chair of the Faculty Senate and the Chair of the Faculty and six administrators selected by the Provost, along with two ex-officio members (the Director of the Office of Institutional Research or a member of that office and the Chair of the Faculty).