

Program Prioritization Task Force
January 20, 2021
Meeting Summary

Brian Payne reminded the group of the goals and tenets guiding the work of the Task Force. An anonymous form from a member of the ODU community was reviewed. The anonymous feedback asked members to consider (1) increasing the organizational efficiency to cut down the university bureaucracy and reduce the overhead cost, (2) examining program/faculty research productivity if the university has aspiration to be a research one institution, and (3) involving senior students/recent alumni and survey them for what they value – liberal arts or professional preparation or other experience. Due to the timing of the processes, Payne indicated that the group will be relying on existing data and surveys of students.

Desh Ranjan and Brian Payne reported on their meeting with department chairs and shared input received from one of the chairs after the meeting. The chairs discussed the rubrics and had the questions about how quality will be measured, whether collaboration is being addressed, and problems with measuring national rankings (particularly among smaller programs that are strong in comparison to peers).

Payne indicated that a chair requested to review the rubrics and data. The task force agreed that the rubrics will be shared with chairs once they are final. Brian Payne expressed reluctance to share the data in its entirety because it would be difficult know the context. Also, the task force discussed the point deans and chairs who responded to the questionnaires were not told that their responses would be shared. Desh Ranjan noted that deans and chairs can decide on their own to share their responses. Brian Payne will talk to the data owners about the data that can be shared widely and how that data can be accessed. He indicated that the final report will refer to these data sources and provide access where feasible.

Tisha Paredes reported on the results of the surveys sent to Graduate Program Directors (GPDs) and Undergraduate Program Directors (UPDs). Both groups were asked the following questions.

- To what extent are faculty able to balance undergraduate versus graduate demands and masters versus doctorate demands within their current workload?
- To what extent do GPDs and UPDs use data and information to inform current and future decisions regarding academic programming (curriculum, degrees, concentrations, or certificates)?
- To what extent does the academic programming (curriculum, degrees, concentrations, or certificates) in the department or school meet students' need for academic advancement and professional advancement?
- To what extent (1) has the academic programming in the department or school kept pace with the discipline, (2) does academic programming in the department or school overlap with or duplicate other programs in the college, and (3) does academic programming in the department or school overlap with or duplicate programs in other colleges?

- Should program offerings in the department or school offer a new concentration(s) or discontinue a concentration(s)?

Each subcommittee provided an update on their work to date. Subcommittees are continuing to meet and review the data.

Brian Payne presented the guidelines for the review of certificate programs he and Desh Ranjan developed. After discussion, the Task Force agreed on the following guidelines.

- Discontinue any certificate that has existed for at least five years but has produced two or fewer certificate awards over the past five years.
- Discontinue any certificate that departments recommend discontinuing.
- When there is duplication, combine certificate programs and be cognizant of the overlap.
- For future new certificates, require that the respective Faculty Senate committees approve the creation of for-credit certificates.
- Submit an issue to the Faculty Senate for guidelines on what should be part of a certificate (e.g., how certificates should be structured).
 - Recommend to the Senate that future certificates that go five years averaging less than one certificate a year be terminated.
 - Ensure that there is no duplication.
 - Ensure the certificate is appropriately named.
 - Identify the strategy to develop the certificate.
 - Identify the workload for faculty.

Brian Payne will brief the Provost on the issue and prepare the recommendation to submit to the Faculty Senate. The recommendation will be shared with the Task Force before it is sent to the Senate.

Tisha Paredes provided the following updates.

- Retention and graduation rates by program have been loaded to Teams.
- Research funding data has been loaded to Teams.
- Minor edits have been made to the rubrics.