

Examples of how UW institutions are utilizing program realignment data

UW-Madison:

Jocelyn Milner: “You asked how the System data was used. Based on the increased interest in reviewing the program array early in 2009 we prepared a web page on low-enrollment programs to supplement the information already provided. Deans were asked to refer to this site and to consider their academic programs in light of student enrollments and faculty participation. The System trend data for UW-Madison was provided to the schools and colleges through this web page.

http://apa.wisc.edu/Program_Review/lowenrollment.html

In addition to program deletions, program reorganization and merger is an important way we renew and evolve our program array and some important program mergers are listed at the above web page.

It is worth highlighting that the decision to discontinue the BS-Clinical Laboratory Sciences program came out of an intentional review by the School of Medicine and Public Health of all of their program offerings. Although it is a successful program, SMPH decided to discontinue because it duplicates programs elsewhere in the System and because the School deemed it important to focus on graduate and professional education. The System data let us see that there were several other UW CLS/Med Tech programs with strong enrollments.

Since the 1970's UW-Madison has undertaken an annual review of low-enrollment academic programs. Because we give this issue annual attention, we have very few programs that are inactive that haven't been formally discontinued. We do require a governance action to suspend admission to academic programs and so we fairly good records on which programs are inactive. Those "suspend admissions" actions provide a three-year window for the program to be reviewed and rejuvenated or, in the absence of other action, discontinued. The only program we have on the books is "in storage" is the MFA in Dance (Department of Kinesiology, School of Education), to which no students are admitted and no plans exist (that I know of) for a change in the program's status.”

UW-Whitewater:

Chris Clements: Below is an excerpt from an e-mail to deans that will guide a discussion to take place among the deans, associate vice chancellor for student affairs and provost after July 1:

“I wanted to touch base about the program realignment discussion we had at last Thursday’s Deans Council Meeting. After the meeting, I asked Barb if she would be able to pull together outcomes from the last 3-5 years of Audit and Reviews including a listing of programs that are behind in submitting their reports. She said we make annual reports to UW System so that shouldn’t be a problem. ...

... As discussed at our meeting, please share them with your Administrative or Chairs Council and engage them in discussion. Some of the questions and issues I would suggest you address are:

1. Are the program enrollments healthy?
2. If the numbers are small, what are the reasons? Does it make sense to have a major in this area? Why or why not?
3. Are there artifacts in your curriculum left from previous days? Have you developed other kinds of tracks or emphases that render parts of your curriculum obsolete?
4. Are there programs that should be in your curriculum rather than and/or in addition to those that currently exist?
5. Are issues about curriculum and program quality, currency and demand addressed each year as part of your department and college staffing proposals?
6. Does your administrative/chairs council track or discuss Audit and Review outcomes?
7. Do you have programs that have not fared well in the A&R process? Why or why not? Are there any implications related to the A&R outcomes for resource allocations (e.g., staffing, additional initiative support)?
8. Do you have programs that are behind in submitting their Audit & Reviews? What outcomes do you think are appropriate for programs that don’t complete the System required reviews in a reasonable timeframe (e.g., withhold hiring and/or curriculum change requests)?