Academic Portfolio Review and Integration Process (APRIP)
Framing the Opportunity
August 2014

- The disruptive changes associated with rising costs and increasing student debt, the technological transformation of the experience of learning, the increasing need for higher education in career advancement, enhanced competition, state divestment, and the demographic shifts in the college-going population have coalesced to create significant challenges and opportunities for the University of Maine System.

- The Academic Portfolio Review and Integration Process (APRIP) is the mechanism through which UMS will reimagine its academic portfolio across campuses to strengthen programs, broaden access, and achieve financial sustainability.

- In large part, each of the seven universities in the UMS currently addresses its academic portfolio opportunities and challenges, including financial and workforce issues, independently. The APRIP offers the opportunity to harness the collective wisdom and strengths of our campuses to achieve a stronger, more accessible, and more cost-effective menu of academic offerings.

- The process involves three groups, campus CAOs, sub teams, and a Process Oversight Committee (POC), relationships between which are shown here.

- As a group, the campus Chief Academic Officers identify criteria to select academic and academic service programs for review, identifying content specialists (including champions), soliciting volunteers, and forming sub teams to investigate and present recommended models for program restructuring, integration, creation, or dissolution.

- The criteria for the selection of programs may include the degree to which programs are already collaborating across institutions or have similar accreditation standards, the degree to which deeper collaboration/integration could enhance program quality, the degree to which collaboration could increase enrollment and broaden access, the degree to which restructuring would allow UMS to better meet state needs, and the potential for financial savings.

- Composed of faculty, staff, and program administrators, sub teams may focus on individual programs (e.g. history, math), collective curricula (e.g. general education, internships), professional programs (e.g., nursing, education), and academic services (e.g., advising, distance education, international recruitment).

- The Process Oversight Committee (POC) oversees the process of reviewing the academic portfolio and programs of the UMS and will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on how academic programs can be reimagined to meet the System’s financial
challenges while enhancing the quality of, and access to, educational programs and services it offers.

- **Membership** of the POC includes faculty, administrators, and professional staff who represent a broad range of constituencies.

- The UMS Board of Trustees expects the POC to develop and promote strategies that maximize the System’s ability to provide students with access to high quality learning opportunities that are both educationally robust and fiscally sustainable so that location or institutional practices no longer prevent students from learning from our best teachers and scholars or accessing our most sought after programs.

- The POC is expected to monitor the implementation of APRIP to assure communication and consultation with stakeholders. Regular communication, detailed information, and frequent requests for feedback will also be available through [http://thinkmissionexcellence.maine.edu/priority-initiatives/academic-review/](http://thinkmissionexcellence.maine.edu/priority-initiatives/academic-review/). Campus hosted, in-person meetings with POC members are also planned.

- The **APRIP process** includes several feedback loops to ensure full consultation and vetting of proposals for academic restructuring.