



Academic Portfolio Review and Integration Process (APRIP)

Quarterly Update, March 31, 2015

The purpose of [APRIP \(Academic Portfolio Review and Integration Process\)](#) is to achieve Strategic Integration Target 4¹ (SI-4) of the [UMS strategic plan](#) that the Board of Trustees adopted in July 2014. Two approaches to address SI-4 are currently underway.

Program Integration. The APRIP Oversight Committee developed program integration last fall and launched it in January. Nine discipline-based teams led by faculty members and involving over 100 participants system-wide are developing recommendations for new multi-institutional collaborations that can increase quality, access, and fiscal sustainability. The teams are to communicate with their constituents along the way. Their recommendations are due May 31. The Chief Academic Officers will review the reports, identify the most feasible and promising options, and forward these to the APRIP Oversight Committee, the Presidents, the Chancellor and, if necessary, the Board of Trustees for approval and implementation. The aim is to begin implementing approved recommendations in 2015-2016.

Implementing team recommendations will require further planning. It will also require significant attention to an array of academic support systems such as human resources, instructional technologies, system-wide academic information and registration systems, transfer policy, and funding/enrollment procedures. The pilot teams are working with system leadership to identify specific needs, potential systems changes necessary to implement the recommendations, and desired timetables. Representative staff and faculty involved in those areas will be essential participants in the process.

We envision that APRIP will have three rounds, each with multiple discipline-based teams. After learning from this first round, the second will be defined and launched in early fall 2015. Team leaders and disciplines for the first round are Ivan Manev, Business; Lisa Leduc, Criminal Justice; Kathy Yardley, Education; Dana Humphrey, Engineering; John Zaborney, History; Jane Smith, Languages; Karen Wilson, Marine Sciences; Terry Colby, Nursing; and Karen Beefink, Recreation & Tourism.

Portfolio Review. The second approach to SI-4 is system-wide review of the portfolio of academic programs in the UMS, a multi-year process to make program inventory decisions systemically rather than in the silos of individual campuses. Members of the Presidents Council and the Chief Academic Officers are to identify academic programs that are less able to meet two or more of three criteria: (1) centrality to institutional mission as differentiated through Strategic Integration Target 1, (2) fiscal sustainability, and (3) meeting the needs of the state. Portfolio decisions will also take into account the results of mission differentiation, the focus of SI-1, through which the Presidents Council aims to ensure that the state has a diverse, effective array of academic options. A standardized model for assessing financial sustainability is expected by the end of May, as is a major market research study to help assess the needs of the state (by the end of June). Leaders from all UMS institutions will review together any programs that are not high on at least two of the three criteria. The options for action are many, including program renovation to increase enrollment, consolidation, creative redevelopment, and closure. These deliberations require year-round attention and progress. If specific developments arise during the summer, any relevant personnel will be consulted and informed. Consultation and transparency remain core values of the APRIP process.

The next quarterly update will be submitted to the July meeting of the Board of Trustees. For more information, please contact Ellen Chaffee, APRIP executive director and chair of the Oversight Committee at ellen.chaffee@maine.edu.

¹ *Strategic Integration Target 4: Develop a model of academic program and portfolio review and integration that leverages academic resources to enhance program quality, expand access, and meets appropriate financial benchmarks, with at least three pilot projects underway in FY15.*