

November 14, 2007

Charge to the Task Force

The Provost will appoint a task force to oversee prioritizing academic programs. The task force will make recommendations to the Provost.

The task force is charged with: a) defining academic programs; b) developing the process for prioritizing programs; c) developing the criteria, as well as their weightings, for program prioritization by which programs will be recommended for increased support, level support, decreased support, reorganization or elimination; and d) ensuring that these criteria fit Humboldt State University's mission, strategic plan and educational outcomes.

The process recommended must be broadly inclusive, involving the Academic Senate, Graduate Council, faculty at the department and college level and academic deans. I ask that the task force use Indiana State University's process as a starting point because it emphasizes a university-wide perspective, thoroughness, inclusiveness, clarity and attention to detail. One difference the task force needs to take into account is that the academic deans are not part of the task force and therefore should be included as one group recommending criteria to the task force along with faculty governance groups.

The criteria must be broad enough to capture the strengths and weaknesses of our programs (taking into account such things as cost, demand, quality, regional location, mix of programs and system pressures). They must be applicable across programs and be clear enough to ensure reliability and comparability among programs. Two models for these criteria are found in Dickeson (1999) and in their implementation at Indiana State University. California State University at Pomona, which has also recently undergone program prioritization, offers another model.

Timeline

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| Task Force Appointed | November 13, 2007 |
| Criteria and Process Finalized | March 7, 2008 |
| Program Response to Criteria | May 9, 2008 |
| Prioritization Report to Provost | October 31, 2008 |
| Provost's Recommendations to President Richmond | December 1, 2008 |
| President Richmond's Decision to the University | February 2, 2009 |