

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM VITALITY REVIEW PROCESS FOR PROGRAMS BEING CONSIDERED FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT, SUSPENSION, OR ELIMINATION

Purpose:

The purpose of the Program Vitality Review (PVR) Process is to determine the vitality and continued viability of a program in response to concerns identified during Program Review or in response to significant changes in enrollment, labor market demand, faculty availability, and/or facility and equipment costs and availability. This extended review process provides an opportunity to gather more data or information in response to these concerns. Evaluation may lead to program improvement, or possible elimination or suspension* of the program. (*State requirements related to program suspension should be consulted, when considering this option.)

Evaluation Indicators may include but are not limited to:

- Significant declines in enrollment and/or FTES over multiple years
- Precipitous decline in enrollment and/or FTES
- Significant change in facility and/or availability and cost of required or necessary equipment
- Scarcity of qualified faculty
- Incongruence of program with college mission and goals, state mandates, etc.
- Significant decline in labor market
- Continued inability to make load for full-time faculty in the program
- An over-saturation of similar programs in the district and/or region

The PVR Process has the following possible states

- Self-Evaluation: College-wide PVR committee is not required. The department faculty will review the program, best practices out of the College, and recommend program improvements. Vice President of Instruction or President may expand membership for this work. Program is not blocked from resource request processes or curriculum changes.
- Pre-PVR: If there are more programs recommended for PVR than is feasible for the college to do concurrently, one or more programs may be delayed until the following year (or term) in the Program Review cycle. In this state, resource requests and curriculum changes will need review and approval from the Vice President of Instruction.
- PVR: The College will generally have no more than three programs in PVR. However, there may be a need to have up to four programs as determined by the College President. Resource requests and curriculum changes will be on hold for the program.

- Extended PVR: If progress was made in the initial PVR, but more work is needed, the College President may continue a program in PVR with additional instructions for work/review.
- Returned to PVR: If a program has been through PVR and continues to face challenges such as low enrollment, low student completion, or inability to meet labor market needs, the program will be returned to PVR.

When a program has been identified for PVR, the following process shall be used to conduct the evaluation in order to arrive at a final decision regarding the program's future status. At the conclusion of this process, the Vice President of Instruction shall make one of the following three decisions:

1. The Program shall continue with specific goals and objectives aimed at addressing concerns determined during the program review and the extended review process. The Program Vitality Review Committee will reconvene after the next program review cycle or progress report to evaluate the program's progress on its action plan.
2. The Program shall be discontinued with a specific plan to address faculty reassignment and student continuance of education in the program major at another institution.
3. The Program shall be suspended for a specified length of time to be decided by the Vice President of Instruction after reviewing recommendations by the committee in their action plan.

Throughout the process of Program Vitality Review, the following must be considered: CFE Agreement, Article IX, Section 4, Program Review.

When any program of any College is placed under review to determine possible curtailment or termination of that program, the District shall notify the Federation. The Federation shall have the right to representation on any committee, task force, or other group which is carrying out a program review for the above purposes.

PROCESS

1. The program may be recommended for Program Vitality Review by faculty within the program, by the Dean supervising the program, and/or by the Vice President of Instruction.
2. The Vice President of Instruction shall notify the program faculty, Division Dean, Academic Senate, and faculty Union that the program has been identified for additional review, using the Program Vitality Review process. The evaluation indicators leading to this decision will be identified during the notification process.
3. The Vice President of Instruction shall initially convene a Program Vitality Review Evaluation Committee by providing an overview of the charge of the committee and then will allow the committee to proceed independently. The goal of the committee is to analyze all pertinent information and make a recommendation to the Vice President of Instruction.

The committee shall be composed of the following:

- One to three faculty members from the program being evaluated including the

Department Chair from the program area, if possible.

- A faculty representative appointed by Council of Chairs and Deans (CCD) from outside the division of the program under review.
- A faculty member from outside the division of the program under review, appointed by and representing the faculty Union.
- A faculty member from a non-related discipline chosen by and representing the faculty Senate.
- A student appointed by the Associated Students, preferably one who is not currently enrolled in any course within the program being reviewed.
- A member of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to serve as ex-officio (non-voting) member.
- A Division Dean (not supervising the program under review), appointed by the Vice President of Instruction.
- The Division Dean of the program being evaluated will be an ex-officio (non-voting) member.

The committee will be co-chaired by a faculty member from outside the division of the program under review, to be selected from and by the membership of the committee, and the Division Dean on the committee not supervising the program under review. Duties of the Co-Chairs should include but not be limited to:

- ensuring the committee is consulting the campus researcher and other resources to validate information being used in determining recommendations.
- responsibility for maintaining objectivity and integrity in the process.
- ensuring minutes are recorded for each meeting.
- regularly updating the Vice President of Instruction on the progress of the committee.

4. The Program Vitality Review Committee will:

- Validate data that triggered the evaluation.
- Identify and validate other variables that affect the status and future of the program.
- Consult with program faculty, the Division Dean, and other appropriate individuals to gather information to evaluate and plan for the future.
- Conduct visits or surveys to other institutions with similar programs.
- Attend an Advisory Committee meeting to obtain input.
- Undertake visit(s) to program facilities.
- Initiate a needs assessment survey (i.e., student demand, labor market information, programs at neighboring colleges) with assistance from the Office of Institutional Research.
- Develop a plan of action.

- Submit their completed report to the Vice President of Instruction with copies to the Academic Senate President and the Union.
5. The Vice President of Instruction will review the report, consult with the Academic Issues Council, and either concur with the report or make amendments.
 6. The Vice President of Instruction will consider the input of the Academic Issues Council and make formal recommendations to the President.
 7. After receiving the report from the Vice President of Instruction, the President will review the recommendations from the committee and from the Vice President of Instruction, discuss the recommendations with the Academic Issues Council, and then accept or amend the action plan, which may include program stabilization, restructuring, suspension, or elimination.
 8. If a program is recommended for stabilization or restructuring, the Division Dean and the Department Chair for the program will be responsible for reporting to the Vice President of Instruction at designated intervals (as identified in the final action plan) on the implementation of the action plan until the specified goal has been achieved.
 9. All new course, certificate, and other curriculum requests from a program under review will be suspended until the President takes action on the recommendations from the committee and the Vice President of Instruction, unless it impedes the continuation of existing course offerings.
 10. Should continuing oversight be a part of the action plan presented by the committee, the continuing role of the Program Vitality Review Committee shall be described in detail in the action plan.

PVR TIMELINE

(approved by Academic Senate November 14, 2017)

By November 15

Vice President's decision regarding programs recommended for PVR reported to AIC (Academic Issues Council). Faculty in departments identified for PVR, as well as the supervising Dean, will be notified before the announcement becomes public.

By November 30

Vice President of Instruction will advise Senate/Union/Instruction Planning Team of the PVR(s) to be conducted during the following spring term.

December

Determine committee membership and convene committee.

February/March/April

Committee engages in activities as outlined above.

April/May

Committee will finalize information and make recommendations to Vice President of Instruction, preferably by May 1. The report shall document the decision-making process (i.e., by consensus or by vote). Vice President of Instruction makes recommendation to President.

By September 15

Final decision made by President. Final decision for programs that will be eliminated should be made before catalog revision date so reference for the program can be updated in the following year's catalog. Throughout the fall term the plan of action will begin to be initiated.

In some cases, the PVR process for a program may be delayed by a semester. Under these circumstances, the timeline will be adjusted as follows:

By March 15

Vice President of Instruction's decision regarding programs recommended for PVR reported to AIC (Academic Issues Council). Faculty in departments identified for PVR, as well as the supervising Dean, will be notified before the announcement becomes public.

By March 30

Vice President of Instruction will advise Senate/Union/Instruction Planning Team of the PVR(s) to be conducted during the following fall term.

April

Determine committee membership and convene committee.

September/October/November

Committee engages in activities as outlined above.

November/December

Committee will finalize information and make recommendations to Vice President of Instruction, preferably by December 1. The report shall document the decision-making process (i.e., by consensus or by vote). Vice President of Instruction makes recommendation to President.

By February 15

Final decision made by President. Final decision for programs that will be eliminated should be made before catalog revision date so reference for the program can be updated in the following year's catalog. Throughout the spring term the plan of action will begin to be initiated.