May 28, 2015

TO: College Deans

FROM: Sam Gingerich

SUBJECT: Program Prioritization

UAA has been engaged in a prioritization project to make sure programs and services provided were best aligned with the institution’s mission. The peer review process that was at the heart of this work led to the identification of sets of academic programs that were slated for transformation or for further review.

After these results were publicly announced a few months ago, a final step was initiated that required the faculty responsible for these programs to recommend the direction to be taken with each of these. Specifically it was stated that given the scope of data and information gathered, reviewed, assessed and evaluated during the prioritization process, this final step focused on developing and gaining approval for a strategy to transform the program (primarily category 4) or a decision to delete the program (primarily category 5). This work was completed and each of you submitted your college’s recommendations.

I have reviewed these and, following discussions with you and with other members of your leadership teams, I affirm all of these recommendations. While the actions of each College is appended, a quick summary shows that 24 certificate programs, one associate degree program (AAS in Computer Information and Office Systems), one baccalaureate program (BA in Dual Languages), and 1 master’s level program (MS in Career and Technical Education) will be deleted. In addition three master’s level programs in engineering are being deleted with two of these, MS in Applied Science and Technology and the Masters of Applied Environmental Science and Technology slated to be collapsed into the MS in Civil Engineering, and the other program MS in Science management will be collapsed into the MS in Science and engineering Management. In addition, recommendations were received to delete 17 minors. The steps to suspend admissions should begin immediately.

In addition to this, a review of the actions show that recommendations were forwarded to transform a similar number of programs. In each case there are specific benchmarks included that will be used to monitor progress these next few years. Finally, there are a small set of programs identified that require additional analysis before a final recommendation is made. This work will be brought to closure soon.

I want to commend each of you, your administrative leadership, and your faculty for the work done on this. While this process was driven by a set of criteria that looked at mission alignment, it is clear that the analytics developed as part of this process are extremely useful as the university aligns programming with a reduced resource base.

cc: Tom Case, Chancellor
    Cabinet Members