

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville University Congress Session I Recap

2. How should SIUE determine its academic program priorities?

PURPOSE: What is the purpose of the academic program prioritization process?

- Establish priorities for resources
- Establish priorities for growth

HOW: What items/variables should be used during the prioritization process?

- Quality (program outcomes; program review; assessment results; scholarly output)
- Centrality (measured by course load matrix; mission “fit”)
- Enrollment
- Cost per credit hour
- Cost for expansion
- Potential for growth/ external demand
- Retention rates
- Graduation rates
- Program revenues

WHO: Who should be involved in the prioritization process?

- Outside peers
- Outside consultants (at least one dissenting voice)
- Majority faculty, but inclusive of all constituent groups
- Internal review (like program review)
 - Should require some self-report by program
 - Start with school/college review
 - End with university-wide review

RULES: What guidelines should be put in place for the process?

- Should involve program review
- Should involve assessment
- Outcomes should be:
 - Designated for enhanced resources
 - Designated for no change
 - Designated for continuation but with reduced resources
 - Designated for required transformation
 - Designated for phasing out.
- Process needs to be transparent
- No programs should be exempt from review
- Administrative prioritization process should also be undertaken

ACTION ITEM:

1. Launch academic and administrative program prioritization processes during spring 2016. The chancellor, vice chancellors, and presidents of the faculty, staff, and student senates will appoint the members of the two task forces charged with completing these processes. The membership of the task forces shall include representatives from all university constituencies and, ideally, will be appointed and charged by March 18. The task forces should review recommendations from the SIUE Congress, analyze relevant literature and case studies related to the topic, and finalize a process that can be shared with the Faculty Senate for vetting at the April and/or May meetings of this semester. Preparation and organization will occur over the summer. The process will fully begin no later than September 15, 2016 and should be completed by April 2017, including sharing and vetting results with Faculty Senate and other constituency groups.

The task forces shall incorporate the guidelines and criteria recommended by the SIUE Congress during its deliberations. The variables and criteria used for the administrative prioritization process will differ from those used in the academic prioritization process. Administrative program review should work on a timeframe that is similar to the one described above. Once completed, the reports and recommendations from the two task forces will be forwarded to the University Quality Council for action.