
MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 30, 2025
To: AMY BANES-BERCELI, ASSOCIATE PROVOST
FROM: LORI BURRINGTON, CHAIR, SENATE PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE
RE: SENATE PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

This report summarizes the work completed by the Senate Planning Review Committee (SPRC) in the 2024-2025 academic year, and identifies other issues and items of note related to the SPRC's activities.

1. The SPRC reviewed and approved the following program proposals:
 - BS in Applied Data Science (CAS)
 - MS in Bioengineering (CAS & SECS)
 - BS in Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology (CAS)
 - MS in Smart Manufacturing (SECS)
2. When considering new program proposals, an overarching (and perennial) concern among SPRC members is a gap in the committee's ability to better understand how each new program proposal fits within the larger structure of the proposing school/college, and whether resources exist to support the various new programs along with existing programs in the respective school/college. This concern also extends to course offerings within departments that propose new programs—in a challenging time, will adequate resources exist to cover current as well as proposed courses, and will those resources be spread thin if planned new hires are not approved on schedule due to budgetary constraints? (As noted last year, the intended “approval to plan” process may address these concerns.)
3. The committee has not made much headway in conducting a review of regularly scheduled program reviews. This will need to be revisited in the 2025-26 academic year. At that time, the committee should plan to re-visit and approve a rubric and procedure for conducting these reviews. (Last academic year, SPRC member VP Song Yan's staff in OIRA supplied our committee with a helpful rubric the committee can use to make these evaluations.)
4. On April 25, 2025, the SPRC (and Senate Budget Review Committee) received their annual briefing on the university budget from President Ora Pescovitz and Vice President for Finance and Administration Stephen Mackey. Given the uncertainties introduced into the federal funding picture, the review by VP Mackey could not provide a clear picture of the future. Committee members have requested two items for future reviews: a) a slightly extended time for more questions and comments from committee members, which would permit a more detailed dialogue with VP Mackey and President Pescovitz; and b) an opportunity ahead of time to see and review (even a rough draft of) the slide deck VP Mackey will present at the meeting.
5. The Registrar was named a standing member of SPRC starting in 2023-24. As a result, an additional AP member should be named to SPRC in the 2025-26 academic year. The current chair of SPRC would like some clarification as to how that requirement should be communicated to the AP employee group, so a member can be named.
6. At the close of the 2024-25 academic year, SPRC chair Burrington and Senate Budget Review Committee chair Chaturi Edrisinha had a brief teleconference in which they agreed that an initial

meeting between the two committees right at the beginning of the fall semester would help to establish a collaborative working relationship (and set the tone for the coming academic year).

7. SPRC Chair for 2024-25, Lori Burrington, is willing to serve as chair again in 2025-26 if asked; however, given what are likely to be increasing planning needs in this challenging climate, it seems advisable that a co-chair or vice chair be named for SPRC. A vice chair would supply additional support for the SPRC's activities, shore up institutional memory, and ensure a succession plan for committee leadership.