

**Contact: Rachel Boon**

**REPORT ON ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW**

**Action Requested:** Receive the report on Academic Program Review.

**Background:**

Board of Regents Policy 3.6 requires review of all academic programs on a seven-year cycle. The Office of the Provost at each institution leads this process and annually reports enrollment, completions, placement and planned program changes to the Board office for each reviewed program. Based upon these reviews and any other information available, the Board office can periodically select programs for on-site audits to assess the need for future Board review or action.

**Program Review Process:**

At the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University, departmental or program reviews occur at a minimum of every seven years. Departmental or program reviews consist of a self-study and an external review. The external review committee of faculty from peer or aspirational institutions will meet with faculty, staff, students, and administrators that can provide additional context for the team. The external team provides a report of observations and recommendations for program improvement. For all Regent Universities, after consultation with the Provost, the dean prepares a final letter summarizing findings of the review and setting out recommendations and required actions for the department. Final letters are sent to the chair, faculty in the department/program, and the Provost. In the spirit of continuous improvement, the Regent Universities have designated mid-point updates during the seven-year cycle to ensure progress is being made. Programs accredited by external bodies can request that the accreditation reviews serve the role of the program review process. In those cases, the accrediting agency conducts the external review.

**2016-17 Program Reviews**

The table below lists program reviews conducted at each Regent university in academic year 2016-17.

<b>Iowa State University</b>	<b>University of Iowa</b>	<b>University of Northern Iowa</b>
Aerospace Engineering Dept Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Dept Biomedical and Pre-Medical Illustration Program Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Dept Mathematics Dept	Advanced Education in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (Dentistry) Biomedical Engineering Dept Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Dept Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept Industrial and Mechanical Engineering Dept Juris Doctorate and Master's of Legal Letters (Law) American Studies Dept Biology Dept Division of Performing Arts Molecular Physiology and Biophysics (Medicine) Biostatistics Dept (Public Health)	Mathematics Dept Mathematics Education Dept Studio Art Program Art Education Program Graphic Design Program Computer Science Dept Political Science Dept Public Policy Program Public Administration Program

### **Key Findings and Improvements at Iowa State University**

- Every program reviewed experienced growth in undergraduate enrollment and graduates in the past five years.
- Placement rates for undergraduate and graduate degree completers in all programs reviewed were between 90-100% for the past five years.
- The reviewed programs noted the need for improved graduate student support, a need for improved capacity for research by faculty and graduate students, and a need to continue the efforts aimed at increasing the diversity of the students/faculty in the programs.
- Over the next 2-3 years, each program noted changes intended to expand or improve industry connections and responsiveness in both curriculum and student learning and preparation.

### **Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Iowa**

- Interdisciplinary connections are expanding in departments reviewed.
- Ongoing support to maintain laboratories and equipment at a high-level in Engineering and must be monitored due to its importance to the curriculum.
- Undergraduate STEM programs enrollment is up; Law School enrollment is showing signs of recovery; Graduate programs enrollment mostly stable to slightly down
- Recent changes have included improvements that modernize curriculum and expand experiential and inquiry-based learning for undergraduates and graduates.

### **Key Findings and Improvements at the University of Northern Iowa**

- Several programs are updating student learning outcomes and assessment mechanisms to align with the new university strategic goals.
- New major in Graphic Design showed exceptional growth in its first 5 years (to over 100 students). The creation of the Graphic Design major was part of a planned shift of majors from the Studio Arts BFA program that is now instituting curriculum changes to enable students to include minors or double major.
- Public Administration and Public Policy program wishes to explore programmatic accreditation to help it grow.
- Enrollments in undergraduate majors increased in some programs and others saw small declines largely attributed to overall enrollment declines at the university or curricular changes intended to shift student enrollments.