

**Contact: Rachel Boon**

**REPORT ON ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW**

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

**Background**

Board 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 reviews or actions.

**Program Review Process**

At the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University, departmental or program reviews occur at least 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. At UNI, departments prepare an action plan in response to the self-study and external report. 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. The chair, faculty in the department/program, and the provost receive the final letter. In the spirit of continuous improvement, Iowa State also requires programs to submit a brief status report to the Office of the Provost at the mid-point of the seven-year review cycle. 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.

**2017-18 Program Reviews**

The table below lists program reviews conducted at each Regent university in academic year 2017-18. Except where noted, reviews included all undergraduate and graduate degrees in the program.

<b>Iowa State University</b>	<b>University of Iowa</b>	<b>University of Northern Iowa</b>
Economics Kinesiology Materials Science and Engineering Music and Theater School of Education	School of Library and Information Science Classics Dance Environmental Sciences Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies Political Science Spanish and Portuguese World Languages, Literatures and Cultures Pathology (MS)	Chemistry & Biochemistry Communication Disorders (BA) Doctorate of Education (EdD) Women's and Gender Studies (MA)

Iowa State University	University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
	Nuclear Medicine Technology (BS) Radiation Sciences (BS) Pharmacy (PhD) Community and Behavioral Health Epidemiology Bachelor of Applied Studies Bachelor of Liberal Studies	

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

- A shortage of lab space for Kinesiology is creating challenges in teaching and research. Some recent renovations can assist with this, but it will require continued monitoring.
- Due to 33% undergraduate enrollment growth in Materials Science and Engineering over the past five years, the department recommends additional faculty and staff hires.
- The Music and Theater program is working to reduce the credit hours required for a Bachelor of Music in Music Education to allow students to complete the program in a timely manner.

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

- Due to enrollment growth of non-majors and undergraduate curricular changes, the Dance department identified facility needs.
- The Environmental Science program is developing improved opportunities for students to work on faculty research and is expanding career-planning support.
- Comparative Literature (in World Languages, Literature and Cultures) closed PhD admissions and will likely close BA admissions in the next two years.
- Based on external reviewer feedback, Community and Behavioral Health closed and reduced sub-tracks for majors to reflect market trends and the number of faculty available.
- Bachelor of Liberal Studies experienced a significant increase in enrollment and completions (mostly students previously in Bachelor of Applied Studies) when the foreign language requirement was dropped.

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

- The EdD program proposes a reduction from 60 to 54 credit hours (beyond a master's degree), and shifting the dissertation from six credits to 12. Self-study findings and recommendations from external reviewers indicated these changes could improve consistency of course offerings and help students complete their degrees. The proposal is currently under faculty review.
- The Women's and Gender Studies program suspended admissions for one year in 2012 in order to restructure the program with two applied track options with internships rather than a thesis. Enrollments and completions have since rebounded. Continuing realignment of program leadership and administration is expected as the department streamlines future decision-making and strengthens work with the external advisory board.