NIU Program Prioritization

Spring 2016 Update
Task Force Co-Chairs
Task Force Leadership

**Academic Task Force**

Co-Chairs:
- George Slotsve, Economics
- Alan Clemens, Education
- 21 Task Force members

**Administrative Task Force**

Co-Chairs:
- Michelle Pickett, Academic Advising
- Matt Streb, Political Science
- 21 Task Force members

A list of all task force members is available at http://www.niu.edu/program-prioritization/
Task Force Charge

• The larger program prioritization process is a resource reallocation exercise, not a budget cutting exercise, per se.

• During our discreet stage of the process, the task force was asked to assign each program to one of five categories based on its performance and importance to the university.

• The task force was not asked to achieve any economic goal (in terms of dollar amount, percentage of budget, etc.) during the categorization process.
A program is a collection of discrete activities/functions that consume resources such as time, effort, and money. A program is not necessarily a department, center or area.

- 223 Academic Programs
- 236 Administrative Programs
Five Categories

Each program is placed into one of five categories:

- Candidate for enhanced resources
- Continue with no change in resources
- Continue with reduced resources
- Requires transformation
- Subject to additional review; candidate for phase-out

The task forces have been charged with placing roughly 20% of programs in each category.
Academic Task Force Criteria to Consider

- Quality of faculty (16%)
- Quality of students (16%)
- Financial efficiency (11%)
- Importance to mission (16%)
- Program potential (11%)
- External demand (11%)
- Internal demand (14%)
- Contribution to diversity (5%)
Administrative Task Force Criteria to Consider

• Importance to mission (22%)
• Quality/Effectiveness (22%)
• Productivity/Efficiency (22%)
• Internal and external demand (22%)
• Opportunity analysis (12%)
Dividing Academic Criteria by Performance/Importance

Program Performance
- Faculty Quality and Outcomes
- Student Quality and Outcomes
- Financial Efficiency
- Contribution to Diversity

Importance to NIU
- Internal / External Demand
- Importance to Mission
- Program Potential
Dividing Administrative Criteria by Performance/Importance

Program Performance
- Quality / Effectiveness
- Productivity / Efficiency

Importance to NIU
- Importance to Mission
- Internal / External Demand

Opportunity Analysis
Process

• Task Forces meet every Friday for 4 – 8 hours to discuss programs and vote on final categorizations

• Average Task Force member is spending between 15 – 30 hours per week on Program Prioritization

• That includes reading the programs assigned for that week on their own time – must be ready to discuss by each Friday
Different Approaches to Categorization

Academic Task Force:
• All members read all narratives
• 17 votes are needed to reach consensus on a categorization

Administrative Task Force:
• Each narrative read initially by 11 members
• 9 of the 11 readers are needed to reach consensus on a categorization
• If no initial consensus is reached, then all members read the narrative
• 18 votes are then needed to reach consensus on a categorization
Next Steps

- Task force reports will be released on or around May 2
- Reports and program narratives will be made available to campus community via Program Prioritization website
- Senior leadership is developing process for integrating feedback from all sources
- Special Town Hall meeting on April 27 to explain next steps and take questions
Questions?