Program Prioritization
Program Prioritization - What, Why?

- Data informed
- Support strategic goals
- Promote NIU Excellence, Value
The National Context

Surveyed institutions involved in program prioritization

- 25% Planning to do so
- 25% Already undertaken program prioritization
- Almost 50%
Program Prioritization: Basic Elements

• Guiding Principles
• Inventory of Programs
• Criteria for Program Evaluation
• Data Templates/Submission Format
• Review Panel(s)
• System for Ranking Programs
• Processes for Connecting Findings to Action Steps
Timeline

Fall 2014
✓ Initial exploration of Program Prioritization
✓ Development of Coordinating Team
✓ Preliminary communications with campus

Spring 2015
☐ Establish Guiding Principles
☐ Develop Criteria with broad campus participation
☐ Task Force nomination and selection processes
Timeline

Fall 2015
- Programs provided with relevant data
- Program data analyzed by program faculty and staff
- Task Forces reviews submitted program data; prioritizes programs into five categories

Spring 2016
- Resource allocations for FY17 by senior leadership based on Program Prioritization recommendations
Guided by Best Practice

- Jeff Reynolds
- Ibrahim Abdel-Motaleb
- Susan Mini
- Bill Pitney
- Brett Coryell
- Marc Falkoff
- Denise Schoenbachler
- Andy Small
- Kelly Wesener Michael
- Carolinda Douglass
- Lisa Freeman
Role of the Coordinating Team

Communications Support
- Marketing & Communications
- Division of Information Technology
- Office of the Provost Staff

Data Support
- Institutional Research
- Registration & Records
- Academic Analysis & Reporting
- Sponsored Projects

Expert Advisors
- Cabinet Members
- Council of Deans
- Academic Planning Council
- Resource, Space & Budget Committee
- Core Budget Team

Coordinating Team
- Facilitator: C. Douglass

University Community

Programs
Guiding Principles

• No sacred cows
• Honor contracts with all employees
• Guarantee students can finish their academic programs
A program **is** any activity or collection of activities that consume resources (dollars, people, space, equipment, time)

A program **is NOT** a department
Programs

Academic Programs

• Instructional / Degree
• Center / Institute
• Academic departments typically contain more than one program: (bachelor’s, master’s doctoral, minor, general, etc.)

Administrative Programs

• Support mission of university
• Support directly or in ancillary/auxiliary capacity
• Some programs in Academic Affairs considered administrative for prioritization purposes
• Administrative divisions and departments may contain multiple programs
Criteria to be Determined:

Starting Point

- History, development & expectations of program
- External demand for program
- Internal demand for program
- Quality of program inputs and processes
- Quality of program outcomes
- Size, scope & productivity of program
- Revenue & other resources generated by program
- Costs & other expenses associated with program
- Impact, justification, and overall essentiality of program
- Opportunity analysis of program
Criteria to be Determined

Alternative Version

• Importance to the university
• External & internal demand
• Quality
• Cost effectiveness
• Opportunity analysis
Program Prioritization Task Forces

- **Academic:**
  Faculty representatives from all 7 colleges

- **Administrative:**
  Faculty and staff representatives from all 10 divisions

- Nominated by peers
- Looking for a “trustee mentality”
- Selected by President, Provost, CFO & Executive Secretary of the University Council
Calls to Action

- Participate in criteria survey
- Think about Task Force nominations
- Consider new or reimagined programs to put forth during process
Questions?