

APARC Minutes

Tuesday April 13th

Present: Elita Virmani (chair), Megan Burke, Puspa Amri, Laura Lupei, Kathleen Rocket, Catherine Fonseca, Merith Weisman, Emily Acosta Lewis, Mike Ogg, Damien Hansen, Rheyna Laney, Naga Lakshmi Damaraju (from UPRS), Melinda Milligan (Assessment Faculty Fellow)

Notetaker: Emily Acosta Lewis

Chair's Report:

APARC Chair Vote: Emily Acosta Lewis is the only one running; formal or informal process. Puspa nominated and Kathleen and Megan seconded. Emily approved the minutes and agenda with seconds from Kathleen.

UPRS report (Catherine Foncesca) and discussion about updated Program Review Policy Document.

In light of COVID and disruptions in the academic year, extending to a seven-year cycle would allow UPRS to catch up on some of the backlog due to COVID but also the five year cycle does not allow for enough time to really improve between cycles. Seven years is needed to see a real improvement and change between cycles. 10 campuses do 5 years, 7 campuses do 6 years, and the remaining do a 7 year cycle. Key changes to the program review policy includes changes reviews from 5 to 7 year cycle and accredited programs can apply for an exemption to line up with their accreditation process. With new degree programs, they will be reviewed within 5 years and then the 7-year cycle will apply after that initial review. There was a discussion about whether to include a mid-review check-in or not in the policy or whether to leave it as is. Everyone reviewed the document and agreed that it was a strong document. Discussions continued regarding what issues might come up in upcoming committees so we can address that ahead of time.

The two big issues were if some departments wanted to go for review in 5 years instead of 7. The other conversation was around how to get departments to do assessment more than every 7 years. The annual report/review from Academic Affairs was discussed at length by Melinda Milligan.

The committee voted on approving the document and it was approved.

There was discussion around how to infuse assessment throughout SSU. Melinda discussed the different levels of assessment. She said there was a focus on meta-assessment-across program reviews and PLOs, etc. She said that finding ways to get governance and academic programs to work together on this work is where the stall is. Who initiates these conversations and who does the work? Melinda said doing meta-analysis on the PLOs and the Curriculum Maps would be something that APARC could work on. Melinda wanted to ask about coming to run projects by us to get our sense on the assessment projects. There was talk about how to allocate resources to help train someone to do this type of work on an ongoing basis in departments. Some departments have these resources (perhaps due to accreditation?) whereas others do not. Related to this is the issue that some departments have no faculty have no one interested or trained in assessment. If we are going to change this culture of assessment and include annual reports-there needs to be a point person in every department willing and able to do this kind of work on an ongoing basis.