

Provost Advisory Committee on University-wide Academic Structure Committee Charge

This committee will be responsible for making a recommendation to the Provost regarding the Academic College Structure at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

This past year the Academic Structure Exploration Team (ASET) produced a written report that presented and discussed several potential academic structures for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. One of those is our current structure and one is the current structure with a realignment of departments. The ASET report does not include a ranking of the structures or a recommendation. A copy of the report has been provided. While the ASET report is a starting point for the work of this committee, the recommendation this committee makes does not have to be a structure included in the report.

If this committee recommends changing the current academic structure, review and approval of the recommendation would follow the procedures outlined in Article VIII, Section 2, Item C of the Faculty Constitution.

Why should we consider a different college structure now?

Reviewing the academic structure allows us to look at the possibility of regrouping departments into new schools or colleges that may:

- increase our ability to meet our strategic priorities.
- facilitate effective marketing and recruitment efforts.
- provide for greater budgeting and administrative effectiveness.

We have the opportunity to consider the college structure at UW Oshkosh before we begin the national search for the next dean of the College of Letters and Science.

What to consider?

The Provost Advisory Committee on University-wide Academic Structure must consult with the entire campus community as it completes its charge. The first step of the committee should be to meet with units, academic departments, chairs, college leadership and others across the entire University. It should use these initial meetings to begin to formulate its recommendation.

Before it makes its final recommendation, a second round of campus input should be considered. Its final recommendation will need to then proceed to the governance procedure.

Inclusion of Entire University and All Campuses

Faculty and Staff from all three campuses must be included in the feedback process. The Office of the Provost will assist in communication via a webpage, written updates and university-wide open forums.

Outcome

The Provost Advisory Committee on University-wide Academic Structure should make a recommendation regarding the academic colleges at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. It should be a recommendation that will position the University of Wisconsin to effectively work towards its Academic Mission. The recommendation should allow the University to promote the

priorities of its strategic plan and be consistent with our foundational elements, vision and values.

Timeline

The Provost Advisory Committee on University-wide Academic Structure should have a recommendation that can enter the appropriate governance procedure by the end of the January 2020 Interim.

I thank you for volunteering for this important work.

John Koker
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Summary of Procedure to Restructure Units

The approval process for a recommendation to restructure units (departments, schools, colleges) will follow the Faculty Constitution Art. VIII, Sec. 2. Item C. These are the same procedures that are followed if departments request to move from one college to another, to form schools within a college, or chose to reorganize into new colleges.

If the Provost's Advisory Committee on University-wide Academic Structure resolves that UWO restructure its academic units, any affected departments or non-departmental programs would need to act on that resolution by submitting a written response to the Provost and the Faculty Senate detailing their rationale and providing evidence in support of their position. The Provost would then request a response from the respective colleges, set a deadline, and share the departmental responses with the deans. Affected college deans must request a recommendation from their college faculty following their college bylaws. Deans must also report financial and other considerations about the effects of academic restructuring directly to the Faculty Senate. Prior to the Provost's deadline, the dean of each affected college and the Faculty Senate would submit their respective recommendations to the Provost.

The overall time frame for this process must take account of the need for deans to gather, analyze and report data, for faculty and staff to participate in their respective departmental and college level processes, and for the Faculty Senate to consider and act on the information it is provided. At a minimum, the review process should encompass a full semester. The final decision to accept or reject the request to restructure rests with the Provost and Chancellor. Ultimately, changes to our array of schools and colleges requires approval by the UW System Administration and the Board of Regents.