Academic Alignment and Innovation Program

University Council Discussion

November 18, 2014
Academic Alignment & Innovation Program

• Ensure that the liberal arts are central to today’s higher education
• Communicate the outcomes of the liberal arts education to prospective students, parents, teachers, and the general public
• Identify both challenged programs and programs ready for growth
• Determine what steps can be taken to help these programs
• Seek out potential new programs
• Assess new or expanded opportunities for interdisciplinary, international, and on-line offerings
AAIP Task Force

- Barry Brown, Professor, Mansfield Library
- Linda Gillison, Professor, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures
- Asa Hohman, ASUM President
- Stephen Kalm, Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts
- Nathan Lindsay, Associate Provost for Dynamic Learning
- Michele McGuirl, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences
- Jenny McNulty, Associate Dean, College of Humanities and Sciences
- Samuel Plotkin, Graduate Student, Environmental Studies
- Ron Premuroso, Associate Professor, Accounting and Finance
- Steve Shen, Associate Professor, Applied Computing and Electronics
- Allen Szalda-Petree, Professor, Psychology
- Andrew Ware, Professor and Chair, Department of Physics and Astronomy
- Shelby Wheeler, ASUM Senator
- Jennifer Zellmer-Cuaresma, Academic Services Advisor, Athletics
AAIP Task Force

• The task force has sought input broadly
  – Office of Planning, Budget, and Analysis
  – Graduate School
  – From every department chair and dean
  – From the President’s Advisory Counsel
  – Here at this University Counsel
AAIP Update

• AAIP has begun its review of all current UM academic programs
  – We’ve reviewed the existing data available and requested new data as well
  – We developed & sent out a survey to all department chairs and programs directors (the responses are coming in now)
  – Met individually with each dean

• AAIP is ready to start the discussion of which new programs UM should consider
Some AAIP discussion questions

• What is a ‘first class liberal arts education’?
• What are perceived benefits and pitfalls of AAIP as you understand it?
• What metrics will we use to assess challenged programs and programs ready to grow?
• How do we identify the best return on investment for potential new programs?