

Dear Campus Community,

We are writing to you to provide an update on the Academic Portfolio Review process and what to expect after we return from Spring Break.

We have already met with several programs and these meetings will continue throughout the remainder of the semester. We have also been working closely with our Faculty Senate leaders and the Academic Officers. These collaborations have helped us identify clarifications we would like to share regarding the process.

First, we offer some important reminders of why we are engaged in this process.

The University is operating in a tight but balanced financial state, described as a "budgetary equilibrium," which, while stable, presents challenges in maintaining highly specialized undergraduate curriculum with our current instructional staffing levels.

We must commit to adapting curricula to better meet the evolving needs of students and broader societal shifts, acknowledging the importance of flexibility, multidisciplinary approaches, and phasing out programs that students are no longer choosing.

Ultimately, we are looking to partner with faculty to identify meaningful programmatic solutions that will enable sustainable growth, where we can be successful in a competitive market, aligning our offerings with long-term strategic goals.

Our initial discussions with programs have been essential in providing insights for understanding each program's context. We are prioritizing meetings with degree programs first because of their complexity. However, we are eager to meet with all academic units as soon as possible. We encourage faculty to bring forward ideas for potential adjustments or collaborations to align offerings with student demand and foster operational efficiency.

Following these discussions, the next steps in the Qualitative Review process will be as follows:

Provost and Program Response: The Provost's Office will summarize the discussions and propose recommendations for modifications or consolidations, including necessary operational data.

Administrative Review: Programs requesting further review will undergo an administrative review process, leading to final recommendations from the Provost and President.

Faculty Senate Review: Final recommendations, whether initiated by programs or

proposed by the Provost and President, will be reviewed through the curriculum process in

Office of the Provost

University of Montana - 32 Campus Drive

Missoula, Montana 59812 | 406-243-4689

umt.edu/provost

Fall 2024.

The full process including relevant CBA and Faculty Senate citations can be found at the link below:

[Academic Portfolio Review 23-24 Procedure](#)

The specific timing of the steps above is still in flux. We are taking the time necessary to carefully complete the process. We expect many final recommendations which have been mutually agreed-upon by programs and the Provost's Office will be ready by April 30 to be presented to Faculty Senate at the final meeting of the semester on May 2nd. In addition, we anticipate major recommendations requiring Administrative and Faculty Senate review to be complete for Fall 2024 and implementation in the AY 25-26 Catalog.

Again, your participation and feedback are critical to the success of this review process. If your program has already met with the Provost's Office, please expect our response in the coming days.

Sincerely,

Office of the Provost