

Frequently Asked Questions Review of Programs

1. Because the University is having to cut the budget, does this mean that University has declared financial exigency?

The University has not declared a financial exigency. The University has endured several reductions in state appropriations for more than a decade. While these decreases in revenue place the University in the position of reducing expenditures, including making some difficult decisions, they do not create the conditions necessary for a declaration of financial exigency.

2. Does the University have to declare financial exigency before it cuts academic programs?

Policy 4.6.16, Dismissal of Faculty, has separate provisions for financial exigency and discontinuance of academic programs.

3. What was the criterion that put programs on the Academic Review Subcommittee's radar?

Fewer than 10 graduates per year based on a 3-year average

- 3-year averages were placed in the context of an 8-year trend line
- Graduation numbers included first, second, and third majors

Using this criterion, the Subcommittee found that 30% of the baccalaureate programs needed review.

4. What other data were reviewed in addition to number of graduates?

- a. Number of degrees produced (including trend data and first, second, and third majors)
- b. Number of enrolled majors (including trend data)
- c. Courses offered (4 semesters) and enrollment capacities
- d. General education, Honors Program participation, supporting course use
- e. Number of sections taught by full-time faculty (2014-2016)
- f. Number of sections taught by part-time faculty (2014-2016)
- g. Number of full-time and part-time faculty (2014-2016)
- h. Student credit hour production disaggregated by course prefix and general education and honors
- i. Student credit hours disaggregated by full-time and part-time faculty
- j. Student credit hours disaggregated by individual faculty members
- k. Qualitative and quantitative data provided to the Subcommittee by department chairs

5. When did the department chairs learn their programs were being reviewed?

All department chairs were notified that their programs were being reviewed. Most department chairs were contacted in late April. Some chairs were notified during the summer if their programs were later included in the review. Each chair was provided the data prepared for the review of their program, and each chair provided additional data for the Subcommittee's review.

Department Chairs were notified of the status of their programs prior to the release of the Report on Review of Academic Programs to the campus.

6. Have the programs had the opportunity/invitation to bring forward additional data and verify the data being reviewed?

Programs that have been recommended for suspension were invited to submit additional quantitative and qualitative data to the Subcommittee. These programs provided a written report, which was considered by the Subcommittee.

Programs had the opportunity to question the data that was provided by the Subcommittee. In light of questions raised, data was re-reviewed. In most cases, variance in the program’s data and the Subcommittee’s data was the result of when data is pulled and with what academic year summer graduates are placed. In a few instances, the Subcommittee’s data were corrected based on the information provided by the program. The corrected data did not change the program’s overall 3-year or 8-year trends.

7. What is the total number of programs on the Recommended Suspension List?

7 majors (6 baccalaureate and 1 associate)
 9 minors
 5 concentrations (3 undergraduate and 2 graduate)

8. Will the University continue offering a course(s) in the disciplines affected by program suspensions?

While recommendations have been made to suspend some academic programs, the University may consider retaining some courses that have a broad impact or that are needed for other programs. For example, we foresee continuing to offer FRE 101 and FRE 102 even if the BA in French is suspended.

9. How many students/majors would be affected if all of the degree programs on the Recommended Suspension List are suspended?

As of August 22, 2016, 159 students are enrolled in Fall 2016 in the eight degree programs (including the Theatre concentration in the BA in English) recommended for suspension. That number represents less than 1% of students enrolled at the University for the semester.

10. How does EKU's number of programs compare with other similar institutions?

| Degree Level | EKU | Morehead | Murray | WKU | NKU | Austin Peay | Georgia Southern | Appalachian State | Indiana State | Eastern Illinois | East Tenn State |
|---------------|-----|----------|--------|-----|-----|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Associate | 12 | 9 | 6 | 17 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Baccalaureate | 100 | 57 | 69 | 101 | 68 | 42 | 62 | 91 | 78 | 57 | 90 |
| Master’s | 45 | 29 | 42 | 57 | 28 | 19 | 36 | 36 | 46 | 37 | 42 |
| Doctoral | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 12 |
| Total | 161 | 96 | 120 | 179 | 105 | 65 | 107 | 128 | 137 | 94 | 144 |

11. What is the timeline for taking the program suspension recommendations to the Board of Regents?

The timeline developed for program suspensions was based on two factors: 1) the process outlined in the Dismissal of Faculty Policy, and 2) the need to provide budget recommendations to the Board of Regents on December 5.

A detailed timeline for this process is [attached](#).

12. What University practice and policy guide this process?

Recommendations for program suspensions will follow the curriculum approval process: The Council on Academic Affairs will make recommendations which are then sent to the Faculty Senate. The Board of Regents makes final decisions on program suspensions. Two additions have been made to the regular process. First, both the CAA and the Faculty Senate have been given an opportunity for a “first read” before taking a vote on the program suspensions the following month. Second, as referenced in Policy 4.6.16, Dismissal of Faculty, the President will be determining the final suspension recommendations to be sent to the Board of Regents.

The Dismissal of Faculty Policy guides the process for determining how many, if any, faculty will be dismissed if a program is suspended. The policy also guides the process for determining the retention order for faculty in suspended programs.

13. What is the role of the Committee on Faculty Dismissal?

Based on the Dismissal of Faculty Policy, the Faculty Committee on Dismissal will work in conjunction with the Provost and the Deans to recommend how many faculty lines, if any, will be eliminated in programs that are suspended.

14. If the program is suspended, will we teach out the program?

The University is committed to the students currently enrolled in the affected programs. Teach out plans will be developed, which may necessitate some faculty being retained during the teach-out process.

15. Will programs on the Recommend Suspension List still have the opportunity to make their case to CAA and Faculty Senate?

The Council on Academic Affairs will be allotting time on its September agenda for each program on the Recommend Suspension List to present information regarding their program. Faculty Senate also intends to allow programs to provide information.

16. Will each program on the Recommend Suspension List be considered separately?

The Council on Academic Affairs and Faculty Senate will consider each program separately.

17. Will there be cost savings from all the programs on the Recommend Suspension List?

Not all of the programs on the list will result in cost savings. The Subcommittee approached the review of programs from a sustainability perspective first. Decisions on which category to place a program were based on the data. After programs were placed in categories, the Subcommittee analyzed the cost savings.

18. What is the estimated cost savings if all the programs on the Recommend Suspension List are suspended?

Between \$1.0 and \$1.8 million

19. What other budget reductions is the Academic Budget Review Subcommittee recommending?

Academic Affairs began its review by first identifying vacant lines and savings through attrition. This review has already identified immediate savings:

- \$816,832 from retirements, RTP, and reduction in force
- \$1,058,599 from previously held vacant lines

The Academic Budget Review Subcommittee is also recommending the following for potential savings:

- Elimination of the Wellness Requirement - \$280,870 (This recommendation will be made through the curriculum process)
- Adjustment to the Graduate Tuition Waiver - \$250,000

Other areas under further review in Academic Affairs:

- Distributing more equitably the course offerings with the General Education elements and reviewing other aspects of the General Education Program
- Increasing course caps, resulting in the reduction of reliance on adjunct faculty
- Identifying other program efficiencies as data becomes available

20. What is the link to the full Subcommittee Report?

http://caa.eku.edu/sites/caa.eku.edu/files/files/Review%20of%20Program%20Report_August%2015%202016.pdf

21. Are all the data available at this link?

Yes.