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2-223 Academic Strategic Plans

A. The Academic Strategic Plan

1. Annually each university shall present an Academic Strategic Plan to the board as part of the Annual Operational and Financial Review (OFR) presentation. The Academic Strategic Plan should include anticipated initiative from the point at which the OFR is presented to the next time that the OFR is due.
2. The Academic Strategic Plan shall define the institution's key academic initiatives and describe how they support the Enterprise Plan and the university's Strategic Plans.
3. The Academic Strategic Plan shall includes:
 - a. Plans to establish new academic programs and to eliminate specific types of academic programs, described below.
 - b. Plans to establish and eliminate academic organizational units, described below.
 - c. Proposals to require more than 120 credits in an undergraduate program.
 - d. Plans to apply more than 64 Community College credits toward the undergraduate degree requirements for a specific major.
 - e. Plans to offer lower division credit courses outside of an established campus in a county served by a community college. Proposals should include confirmed consultation between the provost of the university and provost and/or president of the community college. The consultation should include opportunities for university and community college partnerships. Connection of the proposal to the university's Strategic Plan and the estimated timing for course implementation. Lower division courses not included in the community college course bank or that the community

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college chooses not to offer and lower division courses delivered electronically are exempt from the provisions of this section.

4. Amendments to the Academic Strategic Plan may be reviewed by the Academic Affairs and Educational Attainment Committee and forwarded to the full board for approval.
5. The Academic Strategic Plan shall be submitted in a format determined by the board president.

B. Academic Degree Programs

1. The Academic Strategic Plan shall include a description of anticipated academic initiatives and programming, new delivery methods, and different emphases within programs.
2. Once the Academic Strategic Plan is approved, the universities will submit new program requests to the Academic Affairs and Educational Attainment Committee which will review and if appropriate, forward to the full board for approval.
 - a. A new program request shall include a justification for the establishment of any new program and identify similar programs that are already offered by another Arizona public university. The request shall also include identified market need for the new program, as well as an assessment plan that includes learning outcomes, assessment methods, instrument(s), and internal and external measures to identify to what extent students are achieving the intended learning outcomes and where improvements are needed.
 - b. The Academic Strategic Plan shall address any plans to eliminate programs in high demand fields at the graduate and undergraduate level, as determined by the Arizona Board of Regents.

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3. A university may implement any program listed on the approved Academic Strategic Plan that will not require additional state resources or a program fee for the initial 3 years of the program.

Additional information must be submitted for an academic program that will require additional state resources or a program fee to implement either with the Academic Strategic Plan or subsequently during the 3 year period, and prior to requesting the fee during the tuition and fee setting process or including the program on the institution's budget request. The university's request will be submitted on a form approved by the board president and will include the justification for the fee and the plans for the program should the fee not be approved.

4. Subject to review by the Chief Academic Officers an academic degree program authorized by the board for a specific university campus may be offered by any other campus or delivery site of that institution, if no additional state resources or program fee will be required for the initial 3 years that the program is offered at that location.
5. After collective review by the Chief Academic Officers, a university may request authorization from the board to establish a new program or eliminate programs in a high demand field not listed on the Academic Strategic Plan. Elimination of programs not in high demand fields does not require board approval.
6. The board president is authorized to approve the following changes to academic programs, following collective review by the Chief Academic Officers:
 - a. The disestablishment of any academic degree program determined not to be in a high demand field or the merger of two or more academic degree programs;
 - b. Change in the title of an academic degree program; and
 - c. Transfer of an academic degree program from one organizational unit to another.

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7. The board president shall direct the university to submit to the committee for review and to the full board for approval any changes that the president deems to be of major significance.
8. Upon request of the chair of the Academic Affairs and Educational Attainment Committee, the president of the board shall report to the committee all of the academic program changes authorized by the president.
9. All information included in the university catalogs concerning academic degree programs and courses must be consistent with board actions and policies.

C. Academic Organizational Units

1. The Academic Strategic Plan shall include an inventory of any new school or college or department the institution plans to establish in the upcoming year and any existing such units to be eliminated or merged with another unit.
2. The request for a new academic unit shall include:
 - a. Information regarding the number of students to be served;
 - b. The need for the unit, the relationship to the institution's mission and strategic plan and the board's Enterprise Plan;
 - c. Source of funds; and
 - d. Faculty and other positions needed to staff the unit.
3. The Academic Strategic Plan shall provide a rationale for the disestablishment or merger of an academic unit, the benefit to the institution and Enterprise Plan and information on any financial savings that may be realized from the change.

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4. The board president is authorized to approve organization unit name changes, after collective review by the Chief Academic Officers.
5. Upon request of the chair, the board president shall report to the committee name changes authorized by the president.
6. All information included in university catalogs concerning academic organizational units must be consistent with board actions and policies.