

Dear Deans Council,

I am writing to let you know that I am suspending the May due dates for the submission of the surveys designed to collect responses to the centrally-provided data and additional qualitative information about academic programs. I will announce a new timeline for academic program review that will allow us to begin the unit reviews next fall after we have discussed the plan for moving forward at our Deans Council retreat on May 25-26.

In the meantime, I am taking several steps to respond to the suggestions provided at my meeting with academic program leadership last Wednesday, by the unit committee chairs during their meeting last Thursday, and by seven of the past and present chairs of Faculty Senate at my meeting with them on Friday. These steps include:

- A review of the data by an outside consultant,
- The production of a handbook including clarified definitions of data,
- A consideration of the financial data, including its accuracy and appropriateness,
- A clarification of the purpose statement guiding the program review process,
- A review of alternatives to the division of academic programs into thirds by the unit program review committees,
- A discussion with the Deans about how they are approaching program review at the unit level,
- The addition of another faculty member (or members) from the College of Arts and Sciences to the University Program Review Committee,
- The adjustment of the membership of the unit review committees to reflect structural and personnel changes effective as of July 1 (e.g., one committee for the School of Health and Human Sciences),
- The provision of more information on the Program Review website (e.g., a breakdown of the external funds included in the data provided, a list of the names of faculty and staff departments hired each year, the AAUP Guidelines, information on what types of curricular changes will have to be reported to UNCGA and SACS before they are implemented), and
- The development of plans for a retreat in August for the members of program review committees.

We are going to abandon the use of Qualtrics for the remainder of this process. Program leaders who have submitted their surveys have already received Microsoft Word files of the current versions of their responses to save for further editing. During the next couple of weeks, the Office of Institutional Research staff will be exporting the remainder of the survey responses to Microsoft Word and sending them to the faculty listed as contacts.

Tim Johnston has developed an excellent model for how the academic units can decide on the criteria that will be used for program evaluations, and the weighting of the criteria that have been selected. He has been working with his faculty to re-visit the initial weighting of the criteria in light of a more thoughtful study of the UNCG Mission/Vision and the College Mission, and may add some criteria not included in the list, if they can be justified by reference to those two documents. I have asked Tim to prepare a presentation on this approach for our retreat. I will urge the deans to adopt this system of engaging faculty in the process of establishing the criteria most meaningful for the reviews within their respective units.

It is important that we position the University to begin the unit reviews in the fall. At the April 29 UNC Faculty Assembly meeting, our Lead Delegate asked Chancellor Woodward what he envisioned as the relationship between the UNC GA program review and the program reviews being conducted on the campuses. He responded that the program review process underway on each campus will likely provide the subset of total programs that the Woodward commission will examine, and that he wants to take his cues from the campus review process as much as possible.

Please encourage your faculty and staff to provide suggestions at <http://opa.uncg.edu/programreview/> and invite them to sign up for the listserv whose members receive messages when new information is added to the site. We want the discussion of how to improve this process to be as inclusive as possible, which will be a challenge given that summer is now underway. We are hoping faculty and staff will find this website a convenient way to remain engaged because it is very important that we work together to address the challenges facing our university.