

August 10, 2023

Dear Dean Donahue and Dr. Alan Collins,

As part of the ongoing Academic Transformation initiative, the Provost's Office has completed its [Board of Governors Rule 2.2](#) Program Review process for the identified program(s) in the Division of Resource Economics and Management.

Possible Recommendations

Under WVU Board of Governors Rule 2.2., there are four possible recommendations for programs, and they are defined as follows:

1. Continue at the current level of activity (i.e., no recommended changes for the program)
2. Continue at the current level of activity with specific action (i.e., the program will continue to exist, but there are recommended changes for the program, including reduction of faculty positions)
3. Development of a cooperative program (i.e., potentially merging one or more programs together to create a new program / curriculum)
4. Discontinue the program (i.e., program will no longer exist after a teach out is completed)

Preliminary Recommendations

After considering the data previously released, the information contained within your unit's Self-Study Review Form, and consulting with the unit's dean's office, the Provost's Office Preliminary Recommendation is as follows:

- BS Agribusiness Management: Development of a Cooperative Program
 - This program will be discontinued and merged with the BS in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics resulting in a single new program and major. Work with the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design's Dean's Office to submit an Intent to Plan for the new program by **January 31, 2024**.
- BS Environmental and Energy Resource Management: Development of a Cooperative Program
 - This program will be discontinued and merged with the BS in Energy Land Management resulting in a single new program and major. Work with the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design's Dean's Office to submit an Intent to Plan for the new program by **January 31, 2024**.
- BS Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: Development of a Cooperative Program
 - This program will be discontinued and merged with the BS in Agribusiness Management resulting in a single new program and major. Work with the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design's Dean's Office to submit an Intent to Plan for the new program by **January 31, 2024**.

- MS Energy Environments: Discontinuance
- PhD Natural Resource Economics: Continue at Current Level of Activity
- PhD Resource Management: Discontinuance

Additionally, this unit will merge with the Division of Forestry and Natural Resources effective as soon as possible. The new unit should work to adjust the teaching loads of faculty not directly involved in teaching in the PhD program. The new unit will also work to ensure the consolidation of subject codes being used across its programs to no more than three by **fall 2024**.

The key components that led to the Provost's Office Preliminary Recommendations include the following:

- The department was placed under review due to enrollment declines, a decrease in student credit hours and revenue, and expenses exceeding revenues annually for the years of analysis.
- The plan presented by the unit in its self-study proposed included the merging of this division with the Division of Forestry and Natural Resources, the development of two new programs through the combination of four programs across those two units, adjustment of workload, and rotation of scheduled course offerings. The unit directly engaged with its data and provided meaningful context.

Next Steps for Discontinuance or Development of Cooperative Program

For each program that has been recommended for **discontinuance**, the unit should submit an initial staffing plan for the teach-out process to Associate Provost for Academic Personnel Tracy Morris by **September 8, 2023**. If the Board of Governors approves this recommendation, the Provost's Office then requires that a full teach-out plan be submitted in CIM by **October 31, 2023**.

For programs that have been recommended for **development of a cooperative program**, and assuming approval by the Board of Governors, the department chair or school/division director should contact Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment Lou Slimak by **October 31, 2023**, to develop a timeline to accomplish the proposal of the new program as well as the discontinuation of the merged programs.

Notifying Your Faculty and Staff

The chair or school/division director must notify the faculty and appropriate staff within this unit of the Provost Office's Preliminary Recommendations by forwarding this email and CCing Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment Lou Slimak (Louis.slimak@mail.wvu.edu) and the college dean. This notification should occur **within 24 hours of receiving this letter**.

Program Review Appeal Process

If a chair, school/division director, or faculty member opts to appeal any part of the Provost's Office Preliminary Recommendation, they must submit a [Notice of Intent to Appeal](#) by **August 18, 2023**.

Any chair, school/division director, or faculty member who files a Notice of Intent to Appeal will receive notification at least three business days in advance of when the Program Review

Appeal Committee hearing for their program will be scheduled. Most hearings will occur between **August 21 – September 5, 2023**.

To ensure a broad-based representation, the Provost's Office will establish a Program Review Appeal Committee specific for each unit. Members will include the vice provost, an associate provost (undergraduate or graduate), the program review officer, a representative from the dean's office of the unit's home college, two representatives from dean's offices outside of the unit's home college, and the Faculty Senate chair or designee.

The chair, school/division director, or faculty member who filed the Notice of Intent to Appeal must submit the [Program Review Appeal Form](#), which contains any additional information or data they wish the Program Review Appeal Committee to consider, at least two business days in advance of the hearing. For units appealing the number of faculty to be reduced, it is strongly recommended that the unit present a staffing plan that demonstrates what number of faculty are needed to deliver the unit's curricular requirements, including the number and size of its section offerings.

During the appeal hearing, the unit's representative is given 30 minutes to present the substance of their appeal and 15 minutes to address questions from the Program Review Appeal Committee.

The Program Review Appeal Committee will then deliberate and vote to accept or change the Provost's Office Preliminary Recommendation. The program review officer tallies the votes, informs the Program Review Appeal Committee of the results, and communicates the results to the dean's office and chair or school/division director within three business days following the hearing.

If the appeal is denied, the original recommendation will be presented to the Board of Governors for a vote on September 15. If the appeal is granted, the Program Review Appeal Committee may provide a new recommendation to the dean and chair or school/division director. This new recommendation would also go to the Board of Governors for a vote. All decisions made by the Program Review Appeal Committee are final.

Additional Resources

Additional information on the process and timeline is available at:
<https://transformation.wvu.edu/resources>.

Sincerely,

WVU Office of the Provost