

Academic Program Review

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 3, 2012



Outline of Presentation

- **History and Rationale**
- **Process**
- **Chancellor's Decisions on Academic Program Review**
- **Obstacles, Modifications to the Process, and Benefits of Academic Program Review**
- **Next Steps in the Process**

History and Rationale

- **Appointment of Program Process Review Committee Fall 2010**
- **Environment of diminishing resources in higher education**
- **Changes in mandates from NC General Assembly and UNC Board of Governors**
- **UNC GA review of unnecessary program duplication**

History and Rationale

- To position UNCG to be as strong academically as possible
- To consider reallocation of resources with the possibility of enhancement of some programs and the discontinuation, curtailment, or combination of others

Process

- Total of 254 undergraduate and graduate programs reviewed
- Process designed to mimic the promotion and tenure process as closely as possible
- Review at department, academic unit, and university levels by faculty, staff, and students
- Faculty comprised the majority of each program review committee (N=73)

Process

- Review criteria included 19 measures of quality and 12 measures of function/demand
- Program faculty reviewed and corrected data
- Unit-level committees and deans developed weights for criteria
- UPRC honored integrity of these processes

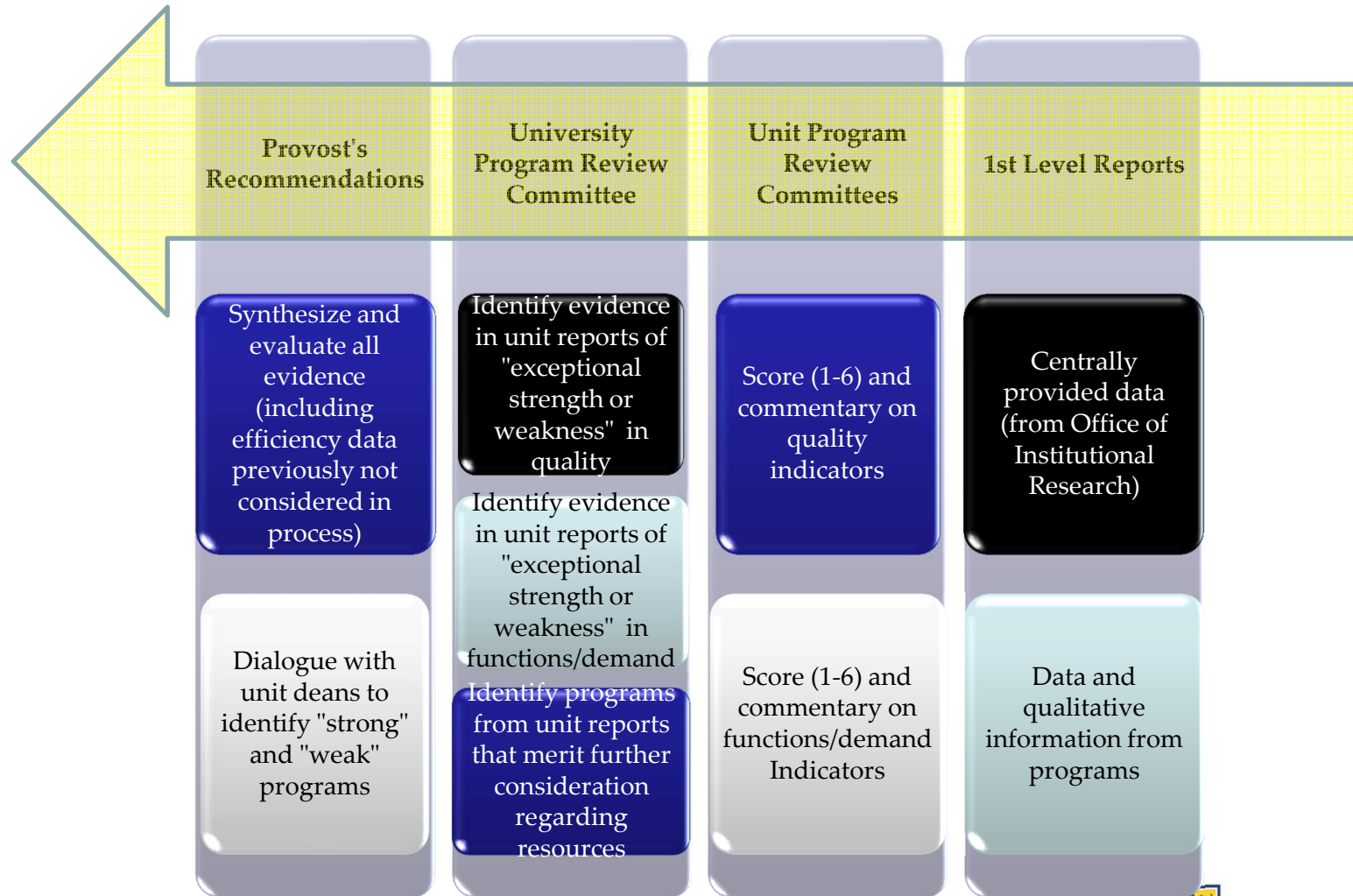
Process: Eight Stages

1. Development of the list of programs
2. Preparation, collection, and verification of data
3. Modification of the process in response to faculty feedback
4. Submission of department and program surveys

Process: Eight Stages

5. **Completion of unit-level reviews by faculty in conjunction with deans**
6. **Completion of university-level review by UPRC with charge modified by Faculty Senate**
7. **Discussion of UPRC report by Provost with deans and other stakeholders**
8. **Submission of Provost recommendations to the Chancellor**

Components of UNCG Academic Program Review Process



Chancellor's Decisions

- 47 programs identified as exceptionally strong in quality and/or function/demand to be considered for future investment
 - 14 undergraduate, 21 master's, 12 doctoral
- 17 programs identified as having challenges in quality and/or function/demand with recommendations for interventions to strengthen
 - 7 undergraduate, 9 master's, 1 doctoral

Chancellor's Decisions

- **41 programs recommended for discontinuation based largely on recommendations of academic units**
 - 25 undergraduate, 7 post-baccalaureate or post-master's, 7 master's, 2 doctoral
- **Approximately 70 inactive programs needing to be officially discontinued not included in these recommendations**

High Priority Programs Not Reviewed

- **BS Entrepreneurship**
- **MS Nanoscience**
- **PhD Nanoscience**
- **PhD Environmental Health Science**
- **PhD Medicinal Biochemistry**
- **PhD Computational Mathematics**

Obstacles

- **Lack of consensus among faculty regarding appropriate role for faculty in the process**
- **Fiscal environment and previous restructuring initiatives exacerbated faculty concerns**
- **Nature of the criteria**
- **Importance or relevance of the centrally-provided data**

Modifications

- **Extended deadline for department and program surveys**
- **Hired external consultant to review centrally-provided data**
- **Formed faculty ad hoc committees to:**
 - Refine data definitions
 - Review relevance of efficiency data
- **Engaged past-chairs of Faculty Senate**

Benefits

- **Engagement of Faculty Senate in the current process and discussion of an ongoing process of APR**
- **UNCG curriculum will be more efficient and focused**
- **External constituencies will recognize UNCG's efforts to improve**
- **APR results will provide an important foundation for the next strategic plan**

Next Steps

- **Chancellor meetings with department chairs/heads completed**
- **Chancellor decisions made and reports to Board of Trustees and Board of Governors**
- **Internal processing of program modification and discontinuation paperwork**
- **Notification of substantive changes and approval of teach-out plans**
- **Discussion of potential faculty reassignment**

Conclusion

- **Institutional review essential to adapting to the requirements of a changing society**
- **Process has endeavored to be open and inclusive of disparate opinions**
- **APR will help UNCG to be as strong academically as possible while maintaining a sound and balanced educational program consistent with its mission and responsibilities as an institution of higher education**

Acknowledgements

- **Program Process Review Committee**
- **Academic program and department faculty**
- **Academic Unit-Level Review Committees**
- **University Program Review Committee**
- **Deans Council, Associate Deans, and Department Heads/Chairs**
- **Faculty Senate**
- **Past Faculty Senate Chairs**
- **UNCG Board of Trustees**