

ARTICLE XIV: ACADEMIC RECONFIGURATION

SECTION A: DEFINITIONS AND CONDITIONS

XIV.A

Reconfiguration is a modification in the organizational structure of the academic units of the University. It may involve one or more colleges, schools, departments, programs, institutes, or centers. It may be induced by the addition of new academic programs or expansion of existing academic programs, as well as by program reduction or curtailment. There are three basic types of academic program reduction or curtailment: (1) consolidation of previously separate units, (2) reduction of an existing unit, or (3) elimination of an existing unit. If an academic program is curtailed or discontinued, normally it may not be reinstated for a period of at least five calendar years after the end of the academic year in which it was discontinued.

Reconfiguration may be stimulated by a variety of conditions such as societal changes that impact specific disciplines, the need for realignment to increase effectiveness, and the need to develop new programming by consolidation of existing programs. Whatever its origins, the purpose of reconfiguration must be to enhance the broad educational mission of the University. To this end, the proposed reconfiguration or organizational restructuring must be accompanied by evidence and a rationale that demonstrate that more effective use of resources for teaching, research, and service will be achieved and that it carries substantial faculty support. Regardless of the catalyst, faculty participation and the academic integrity of the University must guide the action.

The following criteria shall be considered in making reconfiguration decisions and for the purpose of determining the academic integrity of a reconfiguration proposal. These criteria are not meant to replace collegiate criteria used to evaluate programs or departments but to supplement them where appropriate.

1. **Coherence and Consistency of Mission.** The units should fit together as colleges, schools, or departments in a coherent fashion. The mission of the newly created unit should be consistent with that of the University.
2. **Effectiveness/Efficiency.** The unit should be cost effective. The structure of the unit should enhance opportunities for external funding. The size of the unit should be appropriate for its mission.
3. **Societal Needs.** The mission of the unit and the educational programs offered should meet the contemporary and future needs of society and the state of Ohio. There should be employment opportunities for graduates of the programs. Relationships with external agencies or groups should be established, or the opportunities for the establishment of such relationships should be evident. The nature and direction of the programs should be made clear.
4. **Enhancement of Academic Quality.** The reconfiguration should enhance the quality of the University's academic programs. Students' experience should be enriched. Unnecessary program duplication should be avoided.

5. Enhancement of Interdisciplinarity. The reconfiguration should enlarge the potential for interdisciplinary programs and activities. Suggestions on how the reconfiguration might contribute to the development of such interdisciplinary programs and activities should be included in the proposal.

6. Sense of Community. The reconfiguration should enhance the potential for enriching the sense of community within the University's faculty. The proposal should foster or enhance opportunities for faculty to work together, for faculty development, and for research collaboration in new areas.

7. Realization of Academic and Intellectual Potential. The reconfiguration should be consistent with the long range trends in academic disciplines. The proposal should enhance the University's ability to maintain relevancy in terms of both the direction of each discipline and the needs of students.

SECTION B: INITIATING RECONFIGURATION

XIV.B

Proposals for reconfiguration may originate with any member of the University Community (as defined in *II.A* of this Academic Charter), after consulting with the affected units.

If the proposal for reconfiguration is limited to changes in the organizational structure, academic program or curriculum within one college, school, department, or other academic or research unit, the governing process, rules, and procedures for such changes established elsewhere in this Charter shall be followed (*VI.C, VIII.C., VIII.F, IX.C, IX.G, IX.H, X.B, X.D, XI.C, XII.B, XII.C*).

If the proposal for reconfiguration is limited to the creation of a new undergraduate college, the governance process, rules and procedures in *IX.H* of this Charter shall be followed; a new school, *X.H*; a new department, *XI.G*; and any other new academic or research unit, *XII.C*.

If the proposal for reconfiguration involves changes that affect two or more colleges, it shall be submitted to the Vice president for Academic Affairs (VPAA), and it shall include estimated costs and benefits. The VPAA shall then submit the proposal to the SEC, which shall call ~~of~~ a meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA) to determine if the proposal appears to have academic integrity as defined by the criteria listed in *XIV.A* above.

If the proposal is determined to have academic integrity, the VPAA shall appoint and charge an Academic Reconfiguration Committee (ARC), which shall include representatives from the faculty approved by SEC. The VPAA will establish a timeframe for the completion of the ARC's review process. In the event that there is more than one reconfiguration proposal having academic integrity (as defined in *XIV.A* and *XIV.B*), the VPAA shall appoint more than one ARC. The VPAA, or his/her designee, shall be the chair of each ARC. Written documentation of the ARC membership and committee charge shall be attached to the proposal throughout the process.

SECTION C: REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR RECONFIGURATION
PROPOSALS THAT AFFECT TWO OR MORE COLLEGES

XIV.C

The ARC shall consider each proposal affecting two or more colleges on the basis of its potential impact on the university community. ARC will meet with the academic units affected, appropriate collegiate advisory groups, deans of affected areas, students from the academic units affected, and others as appropriate. All proposals containing reductions in academic offerings shall also give appropriate attention to reductions or reassignments of related administrative staff, classified staff, and other support services.

As part of the review process, a realistic resources requirement statement, including the proposal's estimated costs, shall be submitted to the Vice President for Finance and Administration (VPFA) who shall prepare a resource impact analysis of the proposal and request that the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee and University Budget Committee (FAAC/UBC) review and comment on the analysis. This resource review and analysis, including the proposal's estimated costs, shall accompany the proposal throughout the review process as it is considered by the various bodies.

If the ARC approves the proposal, the recommendation from ARC shall be submitted to the affected colleges/units and the VPAA who shall forward the proposal, the recommendation from ARC, and the opinions and comments of the affected colleges/units to the Undergraduate Council and/or Graduate Council, as appropriate, for review and approval. Upon a positive recommendation, the Undergraduate Council and/or Graduate Council shall transmit the results of deliberation, along with the proposal and the comments and recommendations of previous bodies, to the VPAA. The VPAA then reviews and approves the proposal and transmits it to the CAA. The CAA shall then review the proposal and transmit it to the SEC for review and placement on the Faculty Senate agenda. The Faculty Senate shall act upon the recommendation(s) of these bodies, and the established procedures for the implementation of Senate actions shall be followed.

If the reconfiguration is approved by the President and the Board of Trustees, the VPAA shall establish a timetable for the changes and develop appropriate budgetary transfers.