

April 22, 2015

To: UAF employees and students
From: Chancellor Brian Rogers and Provost Susan Henrichs
Re: Results of special academic program review

As noted last week, our campus has completed its special academic program review. Affected programs were informed at the end of last week and we are now ready to share the results of the review more broadly.

You may recall that 45 academic degree programs were selected for special review. They were selected because they were among the lowest enrollment for their type, had seen enrollment decreases of more than 30 percent in the past five years or had low numbers of graduates relative to enrollment.

Of those, 30 programs went through extensive reviews by both faculty and administrator committees. The review process drew on a variety of resources, including reports prepared by the programs and institutional research data. The Chancellor's Cabinet made final decisions on the programs based on the committees' recommendations and those resources. The process was very similar to the regular program review process, except that the selected programs were reviewed before they normally would have been in the review cycle.

Fifteen programs needed review, assessment and recommendations for change from experts in the discipline, and some of those reviews are still ongoing. Those programs fall into Category 6, below. The results of those reviews will be reported when they are ready, either later this spring or during fall 2015 semester.

At the end of this process, the programs fell into one of six categories:

- Category 1 - Discontinue the program.
- Category 2 - Suspend admission to the program and merge with another program.
- Category 3 - Suspend admission to the program and further evaluate the benefit of reopening enrollment.
- Category 4 - Merge or substantially redesign the program within six months
- Category 5 - Implement a plan to recruit/retain more students and/or garner external financial support by Dec. 1.
- Category 6 - Additional review and assessment needed.

Please visit the Office of Management and Budget website at <http://bit.ly/uafbudget> for a full list of which programs fall into each category. We want to reinforce our earlier message: Students in the affected programs will have the opportunity to complete their degrees in a timely manner. They will be contacted by academic advisors soon, if they haven't been already.

We want to thank everyone involved in this process for their diligence in making these difficult decisions. We wish it was not necessary to reduce the number of programs we offer, but our state budget scenario leaves us few choices. We will be facing cutbacks across campus, in addition to these, and are working hard to ensure we preserve as many academic programs as possible, as they are core to our mission as a university.