

University of Wisconsin System 2009

Program Realignment Initiative

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Background

- November 2008: Working Group charged with reviewing the System's undergraduate program array
- Action precipitated by overall budget climate

Goals

- Assess viability and productivity of degree programs in terms of enrollment and completion
- Provide institutions with information to assist decision-making regarding program array

Approach

- Collected and analyzed data on undergraduate enrollments and degrees conferred from 1998-2008
- Produced a clear picture of the System's undergraduate array
- Developed a set of guidelines for program realignments or discontinuations

Findings: Array

- Undergraduate array: 280 different majors or fields of study
- 60% or 169 majors were not duplicated
- 10% or 27 majors were offered by more than 50% of the institutions
- One major (Psychology) was offered by all institutions

Findings: Degree Production

- Determination of each major's share of total undergraduate degree production on a per institution basis (over the period 1998-2008)
- For example:
 - UW-Green Bay conferred about 10,273 undergraduate degree during the period reviewed.
 - Business Administration contributed 16% or 1,643 degrees to that total

Findings: Fewer-degree-producing majors

- Several scenarios selected as starting points for discussion:
 - Scenario 1: Majors producing 50 or less degrees over the ten-year period
 - Scenario 2: Majors producing 30 or less degrees over the ten-year period

Findings: Fewer-degree-producing majors

- 27% (75) of the 280 majors found to each produce 50 or less degrees over the ten-year period
 - However, 22 of these fewer-degree-producing majors were unique offerings
- 30 of the fewer-degree-producing majors were offered by at least 50% of UW institutions

Initial Outcomes

- Campuses encouraged to utilize report to initiate discussion on overall array and realignment
- Anticipated that some campuses will utilize report to make decisions on program closures

Initial Outcomes

- Development of:
 - Guidelines for program closures or discontinuations which
 - Encourage coordination among campuses
 - Ensure that the System maintain capacity to offer programs needed by Wisconsin citizens
 - Guidelines for program suspensions

Conclusions

- Inferences regarding fewer-degree-producing majors need to take into account several factors:
 - Campus mission and context
 - Uniqueness of the major
 - Capacity of the system as a whole to offer that major

Working Group

1. *Stephen Kolison, Chair*
2. *Rita Cheng, UW-Milwaukee*
3. *Yufeng Duan, OPAR*
4. *Joseph Holland, UW-Stout*
5. *Greg Lampe, UW Colleges*
6. *Christopher Markwood, UW-Superior*
7. *Mike Pagel, UW-Stevens Point*
8. *Perry Rettig, UW-Oshkosh*
9. *Nicholas Sloboda, UW-Superior*
10. *Marty Wood, UW-Eau Claire*