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Recommendation for Program/Department Analytics

USM Faculty Senate

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A RECOMMENDATION OF THE FACULTY SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

A FACULTY SENATE recommendation proposing **Program/Department Analytics**

WHEREAS, Decisions about the creation, maintenance, development, and retention of Academic programs are critical to the success of the University; and,

WHEREAS, The decision making process of the recent budget revision revealed the possibility of short term rather than strategic decision making regarding the future of individual programs/departments; and,

WHEREAS, Input of the faculty is critical in the decision making and implementation of programs for which they are assigned and responsible; and,

WHEREAS, Faculty can only give input and make decisions if each faculty member is kept aware of the performance of the programs to which they are assigned, and for which they are responsible, in a timely manner; and,

WHEREAS, Although programs and departments have many common criteria for evaluation, such as number of faculty assigned, student credit hours generated, number of sections offered, number of students enrolled per section, financial costs and revenues generated, additional relevant data often varies by program and department; and,

WHEREAS, Benchmarking performance of individual programs using national and regional comparisons of data from sources such as the Delaware study, HEADS, and others specific to each discipline, is critical to evaluating the performance of a program/department;

THEREFORE, we recommend the following be provided to faculty:

1. In-house quantitative and qualitative data related to performance of each department be prepared and distributed by the administration of the university to faculty assigned to and responsible for those departments and programs.
2. Sources of external comparison data, both qualitative and quantitative, should be provided to the administration and combined with the internally generated data.
3. Faculty in each program and department regularly evaluate performance data, both qualitative and quantitative, and develop recommendations related to creation, maintenance, development, and retention of their specific academic programs.
4. A “Dashboard” be created to disseminate this information that is accessible by faculty via an intranet or other internally computer accessible program.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RECOMMENDED THAT, copies of this recommendation shall be sent to the Provost/Academic Vice President, VP of Finance and Administration, and President.