

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO



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Academic Directions

Academic Directions:

**Part 1 – a) Program Reviews
b) Examples**

**Part 2 – a) Task Force Process
b) Findings and Analysis
c) Implementation**

Part 3 – Completing the Cycle

Part 1a: Academic Program Reviews

The combination of our current academic program review and budget model has led to the closure and mergers of poorly performing programs and units and the selective reinvestment in successful ones.

Decisions regarding reinvestment are based on 3 levels:

- Most reinvestments occur within the context of an individual college. Each college has its own culture and its own funding model. The Deans are responsible to the VCAA / Provost for continual increases in academic excellence and productivity while meeting their budget targets.
- Groups of Colleges and the VCAA / Provost make decisions as a collective regarding Centers, Institutes and Inter-Collegiate Depts.
- The VCAA / Provost has charged specific task forces, such as the Academic Directions Task Force, with examining the closure and mergers of small colleges.

Part 1b: Academic Program Review Examples

Decisions made by Deans affecting individual colleges

Close Under-Performing Programs and Reinvest in Strong Programs

- JACSW: Close the Undergraduate Program in Social Work and reinvest the budget in the MSW and Doctor of Social Work Programs

Shrink Strong Academic Programs to Achieve Financial Stability

- Dentistry
- Honors College

Create Shared Service Centers Among Several Academic Units

- LAS: Creation of the School of Literatures and Cultures

Decisions made by groups of Deans and the VCAA / Provost

Create Multi-Collegiate Departments

- COE and COM: Bioengineering

Continue to fund Centers

- COM, CON, COP, COD: Cancer Center

Decisions made by the VCAA / Provost

Explore the Potential for College Elimination

- Graduate College

Part 2a: The Task Force Process

The Task Force will:

- Provide a one-time overarching review of UIC's 91 academic departments, 12 degree granting colleges, 12 intercollegiate centers and the academic enterprise at large.
- Provide the Senate, unit heads, deans and the VCAA / Provost information so they can make appropriate decisions regarding the future of specific academic programs, units, colleges, and centers and the campus at large.
- Perhaps most importantly it will provide a means of informing the Senate, unit heads, deans, and the VCAA / Provost of trend changes in academic quality and unit productivity on an annual basis.

Part 2a: The Task Force Process

The Academic Directions Task Force Procedure is Analogous to that of a Federal Grant Panel

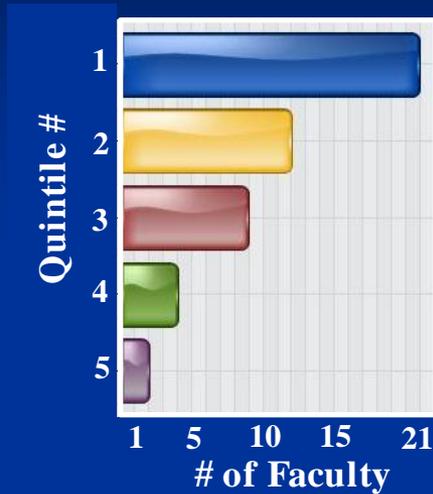
Each academic unit is analyzed based on:

- A survey of the unit head that focuses on evidence of the unit's excellence, unique qualities, and centrality to UIC's mission.
- A Comprehensive Set of Productivity Measures indicating three-year trends.
- Benchmark data for faculty and unit productivity and excellence (Academic Analytics).

Part 2b: Task Force – Findings and Analysis

Faculty Research Productivity

Dept 1:

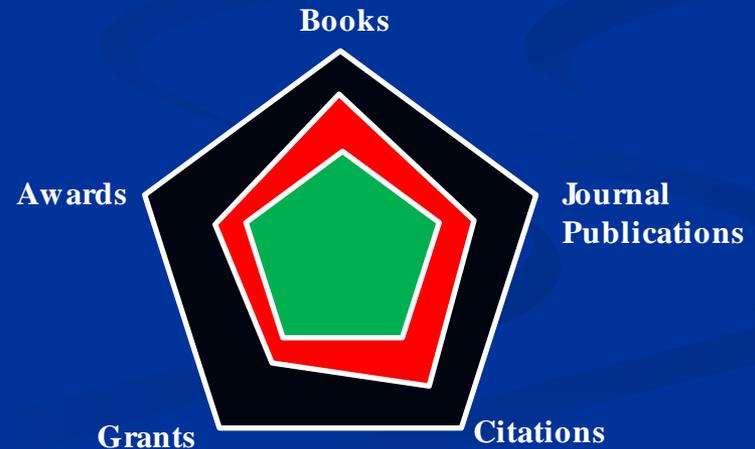
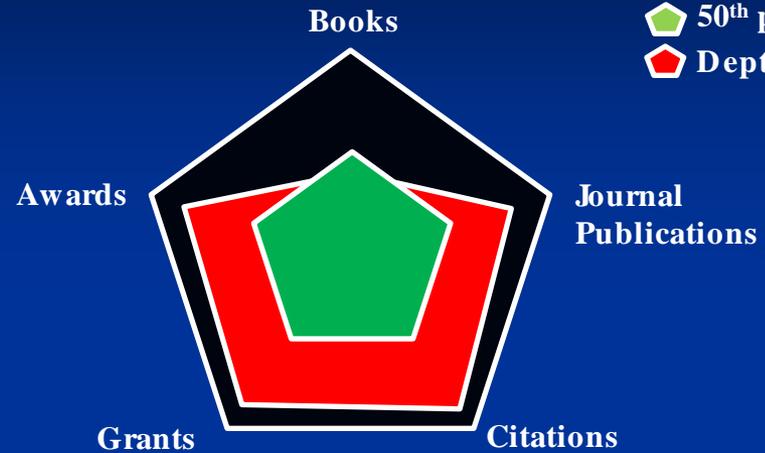


Dept 2:



Percentile Rankings

- 100th percentile
- 50th percentile
- Dept ranking



Part 2c: Implementation

- Implementation will occur at the College, Inter-Collegiate, and VCAA / Provost level.
- The Dean of each college will implement based on approval from the VCAA / Provost regarding the Task Force report.
- The collective of Deans administering each large inter-collegiate center will respond to the VCAA / Provost regarding the Task Force report.
- The VCAA / Provost will charge a special panel (including external persons) to review the task force findings for campus level actions.
- The VCAA / Provost will act upon the panel's findings as appropriate, including vetting and implementation teams.

Part 3: Completing the Cycle

Future Use of the Academic Directions Process

The current Academic Review process

- Focus is on degree programs only; once every 8 years.
- Uses in depth self study process and external evaluators to assess the program's performance.
- Works well with our learning outcomes assessment and Senate review processes.

The Academic Directions process

- Reviews both academic programs and academic units.
- Relies on trend indicators that can be produced and assessed on an annual basis.
- Will work well with our current budget model and our annual budget process.

Part 4: Conclusion

We will continue to make sure that access to excellence and success for our students remains our overarching priority.

