



Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

November 25, 2024

From: Nigamanth Sridhar, Senior VP and Provost

To: Carol Olszewski, President, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nigamanth Sridhar', written over the 'To:' line.

Committee Charge: Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Program Improvement and Evaluation

Dear Dr. Olszewski:

With evolving conditions pertaining to enrollment in academic programs, the Office of the Provost is engaged in a process of continuous evaluation of academic program performance. The following broad metrics are used in this evaluation process:

- Enrollment trends (new students as well as retention)
- Market trends (including competitive offerings at peer institutions)
- Employer demand (job postings in the region)
- Research and scholarship (faculty publications, external grants)
- Efficacy of operation (DFW rates, course capacity, faculty-student ratio)

In addition to such continuous evaluation, the institution is also required to submit periodic reports to the Ohio Department of Higher Education demonstrating that Cleveland State University is operating academic programs of the high quality while using taxpayer resources in an efficient manner. Examples of such reports are:

- Efficiency Report (annual)
- Low Enrolling and Duplicative Programs Report (every three years)
- Campus Completion Plan (every two years)

The charge to the proposed committee will be to assist with conducting a holistic evaluation of our program offerings, with the goal of making potential adjustments to the allocation of resources in the form of new investments or divestment in programs. The members of the committee will have access to all pertinent data.

With this memo, I am requesting the creation of an ad hoc committee of the CSU Faculty Senate to work collaboratively with my office on this continuous improvement process. The next report on low-enrolling and duplicative programs is due in May 2025 and I would request that a committee is appointed in time to work on that report. The actions and reports listed above are led and executed by my office, and we will continue to do so. The faculty committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the administrative teams. We see this committee working in conjunction with existing committees of the senate. For example, actions pertaining to curriculum modifications (new program development, program discontinuation) will go to the University Curriculum Committee; actions pertaining to student success will go to the Undergraduate Student Success Committee.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.