

4. OSBM Report on UNC Academic Degree Program Productivity ReviewJunius Gonzales

Situation: The Office of State Budget and Management conducted a review of the UNC Academic Degree Program Productivity Review Process.

Background: The Office of State Budget and Management initiated a study of The University of North Carolina’s biennial Academic Degree Program Productivity review. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Academic Degree Program Productivity review and determine the success rate of the recommended changes from the review. There were four key objectives:

1. Determine the execution status of the 134 programs identified as increasing enrollment in the 2012 Review of Academic Degree Program Productivity.
2. Determine the execution status of the 47 programs flagged for discontinuation or to be combined with other programs in the 2012 Review of Academic Program Productivity.
3. Compare the last biennial review findings with the upcoming biennial review findings to identify any overlap in programs continually identified as low performing.
4. Research and identify other University System criteria for identifying low productivity programs and recommend potential improvements.

Assessment: The study found, with review of several additional states’ processes/thresholds, that the UNC Academic Degree Program Productivity Review process is meeting the purpose of “balancing academic programs and improving productivity” (Program Analysis of the UNC Academic Degree Program Productivity Review, OSBM (2015) p. 3). The majority of programs were continuing to increase enrollment or improve productivity through restructuring or discontinuation. OSBM noted that UNC is committed to the continued improvement of the productivity process and currently has begun a review of the guidelines and procedures in anticipation of adjustments for the 2016 biennial review.

Action: This is for information only.