



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES OF ACADEMIC UNITS

This policy explains the process of establishing, renaming, merging, transferring, and eliminating academic units. *The establishment or alteration of an academic program, when proposed in concert with the establishment or alteration of an academic unit, will require review by means of the University Curriculum Review Process. When program improvements involve both personnel and program shifts, it is desirable that program shifts be considered first.*

Organizational changes to academic units are not final until related academic-program improvements also are approved. Curricular changes final at the dean's level will be examined for completeness and accuracy by the University catalog editor and forwarded to the registrar for implementation. Curricular changes requiring university-level review also will be examined for completeness and accuracy and forwarded by the catalog editor to the appropriate university-level reviewing body.

Definitions

- **Academic unit:** a department, school, or comparable organization to which faculty are attached for appointment, promotion and tenure purposes.
- **Academic (degree) program:** the composite of academic and curricular requirements necessary to earn a degree awarded by Western Michigan University. (See the undergraduate and graduate catalogs for lists of the degrees offered by WMU.)

Process

1. An idea for establishing a new academic unit, as well as renaming, merging, transferring, and eliminating an academic unit(s), may originate anywhere within the University.
2. Before a formal proposal is made, sponsor(s) of the idea will discuss it informally with affected faculty (faculties), chair(s), dean(s), and the provost (no formal meeting is required).
3. Following the discussions, a proposal for change may be composed and forwarded by the proposing unit on the "Request to College Curriculum Committee" form for review by the affected faculty (faculties), chair(s) and dean(s).
4. The affected faculty (faculties) and the affected chair(s) will review the proposal and forward their separate recommendations to the affected dean(s).
5. The affected dean(s) will submit the proposal, all recommendations from others and all related material to the college curriculum committee(s). It will be the responsibility of the dean(s) to move the proposal through the process in a timely manner. If other college curriculum committees or deans have reservations, their written statement

should be sent to the originating college curriculum committee. The originating CCC(s) will review all the materials, forward a recommendation to the dean(s), and distribute agendas and minutes in the standard way.

6. The recommendation from the CCC(s) is reviewed by the affected college dean(s). The resultant recommendation of the college dean(s), all other recommendations, and all related materials, including the "Request to College Curriculum Committee" form and attachments, are sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Board for its review and recommendation. The Faculty Senate Executive Board will include in the review process the Senator(s), program chair(s), and if one exists the program faculty coordinator(s) for any and all programs affected by the proposed change.
7. The executive board may take its recommendations (which may include advisory reports) to the Faculty Senate. The final recommendation and all related materials are sent to the provost.
8. The provost will review all relevant materials and make a recommendation to the president of the University and, as appropriate, to the academic officers of the Presidents Council of State Universities and to the Board of Trustees.
9. The Board of Trustees, upon the president's recommendation, grants final approval. (Note: Organizational changes are not final until related academic-program improvements also are approved by means of the University Curriculum Review Process.)

FLOW CHART FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES OF ACADEMIC UNITS

Below is a flow chart summarizing the route traveled by any proposal to establish, rename, merge, transfer or eliminate an academic unit(s). The number in parentheses to the right of the review level corresponds to the number on the preceding pages describing that review level.

Idea originates with anyone – (1)



Faculty, chair(s), dean(s) and provost consult – (2)



Originator composes proposal – (3)



Faculty and chair(s) forward recommendations – (4)



College curriculum committee (CCC) reviews proposal – (5)



Dean(s) reviews proposal – (6)



Faculty Senate Executive Board makes recommendation – (7)

⇒ [may place on agenda of Faculty Senate or seek counsel from
advisory groups if appropriate]



Provost reviews proposal and makes a recommendation to the president of the University and to the academic officers of the Presidents Council of State Universities and to the Board of Trustees for final approval – (8)



Board of Trustees, upon the president's recommendation, grants final approval – (9)
(Note: Organizational changes to academic units are not final until related academic-program improvements also are approved.)