Definition of an academic unit: (near final)

An academic unit is a unit whose primary mission is teaching and/or research related to a nationally recognized academic discipline [identified with Classification of Instructional Program Codes (CIP)] or reflects a research in a nationally recognized field. Features of an academic unit include:

- It has a dean, chair, head, or director who manages academic/instructional/curriculum elements and responsibilities; and
- It is affiliated with academic faculty; and
- It participates in ongoing assessment activities and annual assessment reporting.

Implementation Notes: This can be implemented right away and placed on the APAA website.

Program Type Communication Policy (near final)

As the University expands to different campuses and delivery modes, it becomes increasingly important to ensure students are informed about how and where a program is delivered and any additional fees and expectations associated with that delivery. Clear labeling will enable students to make informed decisions about the programs in which they choose to engage.

The program/delivery mode types are defined below. These definitions will determine the designation a program receives in the catalog and how it needs to be promoted on program websites and discussed with students during advising.

- “On-campus” programs must be structured such that students can complete all program requirements through campus-based offerings.
- “Ecampus” programs must be structured such that students can complete all program requirements via Ecampus. Some required lower division courses are not available online via Ecampus (e.g. Bacc Core Communications requirement).
- “Mixed delivery” programs are those that have one or more required courses delivered either solely on-campus OR solely online (via Ecampus or another online delivery). Thus, students who enroll in a mixed-delivery program will have to take a mix of course delivery types to complete the program. NOTE: This excludes hybrid courses which replace in-class time with online time.
Implementation Notes: After approval by the Curriculum Council, this will be taken by Mike Bailey to the Executive Council to determine next steps and discuss the factors and considerations below.

FACTORS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE PROGRAM TYPE POLICY:

- Programs would need to be contacted and asked to identify the “program type” for each degree.
- New processes may need to be developed or revised to support this policy. For example, academic units will need to go through the Curriculum Proposal System to request a change from one “location” designation (program/delivery type) to another or to add the designation (this is similar to the current process for changing from on-campus to Ecampus delivery).
- Statements will need to be developed to explicitly inform students about any additional fees associated with a delivery mode. Those statements will need to be made in multiple places, including the catalog, on the academic unit’s website, and on other materials promoting the degree or certificate program.
- Policies may need to be developed around transitioning from one program/delivery type to another, such that existing students who are engaged in one delivery mode are not adversely impacted. Adversely impacted would need to be defined. Other considerations include: If a student starts a program in one delivery mode, is the unit obligated to ensure that delivery mode is in place until all students graduate? What if there are a few students who are taking a very long time to graduate, is the unit bound to keep the previous program structure until they are done?)