



President's Bulletin

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EVALUATION TEAMS BEGIN STUDY OF 7 ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

Another phase of the University of Missouri's Institutional Reappraisal program is well underway. During the coming weeks, seven evaluation teams, composed of professors and academic leaders from throughout the United States, will be visiting the University to evaluate selected academic disciplines with assistance from the University's leadership on each campus.

The first of these teams arrived at the University Sunday for a week-long assessment of the University's physical sciences program. Six other evaluation teams will be at the University to study other disciplinary areas on the following dates: Engineering, April 2-7; Biological Sciences, April 9-14; Psychology, April 23-28; Mathematical Sciences, May 7-12; Education, May 14-19; and Professional Health Sciences, May 21-26. These areas were selected because they contain the most duplication and include many costly graduate programs.

Each evaluation team consists of from three to six persons from outside the University. Many team members hold or have recently held a significant administrative post in a major university.

The evaluation teams were chosen by the Academic Planning Council. Team members were suggested to the Academic Planning Council by a Steering Committee, which has served as the coordinator and the main source of contact for the evaluation teams. Members of the Steering Committee are UMC Dean of Extension John F. McGowan, UMKC Provost Wesley J. Dale, UMR Dean of the Graduate School Robert H. McFarland, UMSL Dean of Faculties Everett Walters, and University Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul C. Nagel, chairman.

Before arriving at the University, each team member will have received advance materials concerning the specific area to be evaluated and general information about the University and its four campuses.

After its visit to the University, each team will prepare a report based on five major questions about the academic areas under study. Questions to be considered are:

1. In its present state, what appear to be the area's or program's strengths? What are the weaknesses? On which campuses are these to be found?

2. Hereafter should the University support this program or area? Among the many factors to be considered are: What is society's future interest in this program likely to be, and what are the prospective numbers of students who might wish to enroll in it?

3. What portion, if any, of the existing program should be continued? On which campuses and to what extent?

4. What portions, if any, of the existing program should be reduced or terminated? On which campuses and to what extent?

5. What new phases of this area or program should be established?

The reports, based on responses to these questions, will be distributed to campuses, and in turn to the various departments under study. Responses from the campuses will be sent within 30 days to the Steering Committee which will forward these and its own comments to the Academic Planning Council.

The Academic Planning Council will use the team reports and the campus commentaries as the prime basis for their recommendations to President Ratchford. The

President will also have campus responses to the Council's proposals before he prepares recommendations to the Board of Curators on the future of the academic areas or disciplines involved.

In making recommendations to the Board of Curators, President Ratchford will draw together insights from both internal and external sources. The Academic Planning Council, composed of the four campus Chancellors, Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, Administration, Extension and Research, is the group directing the academic program evaluation and will be making recommendations to President Ratchford.

To produce a more comprehensive evaluation, both internal and external evaluations are being included in the academic program evaluation.

Initial internal program evaluations have been completed. The resulting program inventories, prepared by each campus academic area, will serve as working material for the visiting evaluation teams--the latter includes noted professionals and academic leaders from universities throughout the nation.

Evaluation of all academic areas over the next three years is one major goal of the University's intensive program of self-appraisal which has been underway since January, 1971. Other major goals presently underway as part of Institutional Reappraisal are: a definition of the role and program scope of each of the four campuses and a revamping of the University's administrative philosophy and practice.