

- 3. Act on Timeline for Implementation of Strategic Program Alignment Policy – ESU, FHSU, KSU, & PSU** **Jean Redeker, VP, Academic Affairs**

Summary

At its June 2018 meeting, the Board approved a policy related to the strategic alignment of programs and subsequently selected the University of Kansas and Wichita State University to pilot this policy. This item provides a timeline for the remaining state universities to implement the policy. It is proposed that K-State, ESU, and FHSU present to the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee the process used to identify programs for review, and a list of at least two programs recommended for review in December 2019, and to the Board for action in January 2020. It is recommended that PSU present to the Board an overview of its Strategic Visioning process being led by rpk Group at the September 2019 Board meeting, and in lieu of implementing the strategic program alignment policy, present the results of this process to the Board in Spring 2020. The proposed timeline was reviewed and approved by the Council of Presidents at its May 2019 meeting. Staff recommend the Board accept the timeline for the remaining state universities to implement the strategic program alignment review.

Background

At its June 2018 meeting, the Board approved a policy related to the strategic alignment of programs and subsequently selected the University of Kansas and Wichita State University to pilot this policy. The policy, along with a proposed timeline for the remaining state universities to undertake strategic program alignment review is presented below. The proposed timeline was reviewed and approved by the Council of Presidents at its May 2019 meeting.

Policy

The Board’s policy on Strategic Program Alignment, which is found in Section II.A.5 of the Board Policy Manual, states that:

“In addition to and distinct from the regular program review cycle and process, the Board may direct one or more state university chief executive officers to undertake a strategic program alignment review to determine which of the university’s programs shall be recommended to the Board for continuation, further evaluation, merger, or discontinuance. Guidelines will be established by the Board.”

If directed to do so under this provision, the state university chief executive officer shall present to the Board a list of programs for strategic alignment review. Upon receipt of the list, the Board shall review, approve one or more programs for alignment review, and may select one or more additional programs to evaluate.

Upon completion of the strategic alignment at the campus level, the state university chief executive officer shall recommend to the Board whether identified programs should be continued, further evaluated, discontinued, or merged, and provide a rationale for each recommendation. The Board shall review the recommendations and make the final determination whether the evaluated programs continue, merit further evaluation, merge, or discontinue. For programs the Board has identified for merger or discontinuance, the state university chief executive officer shall provide a plan for the transition.”

Proposed Timeline for Implementation – K-State, ESU, and FHSU

K-State, ESU, and FHSU are recommended to undertake strategic program alignment review according to the timeline below:

- Dec 2019: K-State, ESU, and FHSU present to the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee the process used to identify programs for review, and a list of at least two programs recommended for review.
- Jan 2020: K-State, ESU, and FHSU present to the Board the process used to identify programs for review, and a list of at least two programs recommended for review. The Board acts on the list of recommended programs.
- June 2020: K-State, ESU, and FHSU present their final recommendations to the Board on whether identified programs should be continued, further evaluated, discontinued, or merged, along with a rationale for each recommendation.

Proposed Timeline for Implementation – PSU

Staff recommend PSU present to the Board the results of its *Strategic Visioning* process being led by rpk Group in lieu of implementing the strategic program alignment policy.

The University’s *Strategic Visioning* process includes a component focusing on academic portfolio and efficiency review that categorizes programs for enhancement, maintenance, or monitoring/discontinuance. The process also includes components focused on the identification of new programs - emphasizing those with the potential for revenue growth - and identifying opportunities for re-organization within Academic Affairs to optimize efficiency and enhance the delivery of educational programs.

- Sept 2019: PSU presents an overview of its *Strategic Visioning* process and specifies the month (Jan-June 2020) for reporting back to the Board on the outcome of the component focusing on academic portfolio and efficiency review.
- Spring 2020: PSU reports the outcome of the *Strategic Visioning* component focused on academic portfolio and efficiency review.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board accept that K-State, ESU, and FHSU will present to the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee the process used to identify programs for review, and a list of at least two programs recommended for review in December 2019, and to the Board for action in January 2020. Staff also recommends that PSU present to the Board an overview of its *Strategic Visioning* process being led by rpk Group at the September 2019 Board meeting, and in lieu of implementing the strategic program alignment policy present the results of this process to the Board in Spring 2020.