

April 12, 2024  
*Revised April 24, 2024*

**SUBJECT:** Academic Transformation Update: Program Review Preliminary Recommendation

Dear President Stuart and Dean Smith,

In accordance with the provisions of [Board of Governors Rule 2.2](#), the Program Review Appeal Hearing for the BS in Mathematics was held on April 24, 2024, at 2pm.

The Appeal was of the following preliminary recommendation:

- BS Mathematics: Discontinuance

The program appealed to instead change the recommendation to:

- Continuance at the current level of activity with specific action.

The members of the Program Review Appeal Committee for this program were:

- Mark Gavin, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Budget, Facilities, and Strategic Initiatives; Vice-Provost's designee
- Lou Slimak, Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment
- Evan Widders, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
- Rebel Smith, Associate Dean, Chambers College
- Valerie Lastinger, Associate Dean, Eberly College
- Scott Fleming, Dean of Business, Humanities, and Social Sciences, WVUIT
- Cortney Barko, Faculty Assembly Chair-elect, WVUIT

The appeal was presented by Dr. John (JT) Hird and Dr. Brian Leary. The committee thanks them for their clear, informative, and collegial appeal presentation. We recognize and affirm the value of the work the faculty is currently engaged in to improve student success in Math service courses.

### ***Result of the Appeal***

After reviewing the information submitted previous to and during the appeal, the committee has made the following determination:

- By a vote of 6 to 1, deny the appeal to change the preliminary recommendation.

During the appeal committee's deliberations, the committee issued specific actions for the program to implement.

- With support from Academic Affairs, the new program director should be empowered to implement course coordination that standardizes assessments and assessment policies (including quizzes and homework), attendance policies, and other pedagogical approaches across all sections of a course. The new program director will ensure that these standardized approaches are in alignment with best practices in math instruction.
- Working with Academic Affairs, the program will develop an annual plan that identifies a particular course(s) to be focused on for improvement. The plan will include a target for DFW rate improvement in that course, the actions necessary to improve DFW rates, and an assessment plan to determine the effectiveness of those changes. If changes are beneficial, they will be implemented across all sections of a course.
- After sustained significant improvement in student success in the math service courses has been achieved (as measured by the plans above), a proposal for a new BS in Mathematics program with topical courses with limited pre-requisites and broader student appeal, as presented in the appeal hearing, may be submitted to Academic Affairs for consideration.

The decision of the Program Review Appeal Committee is final and this recommendation to discontinue the BS in Mathematics at WVUIT will now be sent to the Board of Governors for their review and vote at their June meeting.

Questions about the results of this appeal may be directed to Lou Slimak, Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment.

Sincerely,

WVU Office of the Provost