

April 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Academic Transformation Update: Ad Hoc Committee on RBA Program Response and Recommendation

Dear President Stuart and Dean Smith,

As part of the ongoing Academic Transformation initiative, the Provost's Office has completed its review process for the ad hoc committee on the RBA program's report as well as the associated program review.

Recommendation

The preliminary recommendation for the RBA program is:

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

The specific actions associated with this program are a result of the ad hoc committee's report and the review team's review of that report.

Key Findings

The committee's review of the report and the resulting deliberations resulted in the following specific recommendations:

- Move oversight of the program to Academic Affairs.
- Work with the appropriate University Relations staff to update the program website with key information, especially program cost and explore development of faculty and student testimonials. Also review the website to ensure that its representation of Areas of Emphasis (AOEs) is accurate and matches the current Catalog requirements.
- Review and provide data to Academic Affairs on the current access to and use of online courses by Tech RBA students, disaggregated by campus offering the course (Tech, PSC, or Morgantown)
- Review and provide data to Academic Affairs on the current use of AOEs to determine if a curricular change could be beneficial to students and promote increased instructional efficiency.
- Review the RBA program curriculum and academic policies and procedures to provide further flexibility to students and to ensure it is consistent with RBA programs across WVU.
- Review staffing need for the RBA and BIS programs.
- Explore with Academic Affairs low cost, high impact ways to promote student connection to one another within the program as well as to the institution itself.
- Explore with Academic Affairs how to better integrate prior learning and external certification like CSM as well as WV Rocks for utilization in the RBA program.

- If staffing permits, develop a Bachelor's of Integrated Studies (BIS) as a complementary completion program and review how the BIS could replace the current use of the General Education program and potentially the Pre-Engineering program to better support degree pursuance in Course Plan of Study (CPOS) for federal financial aid.

Recommendation

After considering the report produced by the ad hoc committee and consulting with the campus' institutional leaders, the Provost's Office is recommending that WVU Tech move forward with implementing the specific actions suggested by the ad hoc committee as detailed above.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Reed
Provost