APS JUSTIFICATION

Policy Title: New Degree Program Approval

APS Number: 1038   **APS Functional Area:** **ACADEMIC/RESEARCH**

Date Submitted:	October 21, 2025 (Updated 11/20/25)
Proposed Action:	Revision
Brief Description:	Requires procedures for approval of new degree programs.
Desired Effective Date:	TBD
Responsible University Officer:	Vice President for Academic Affairs
Responsible Office:	Office of Academic Affairs
Policy Contact:	Office of Academic Affairs
Applies to:	All colleges, schools and academic units

Reason for Policy: Provides procedures for the new degree program approval process, as required by Regent Policy 4.B.3.

I. **REASON FOR PROPOSED ACTION**

Regent Policy 4.B: Academic Planning and Accountability is currently under review by the Board of Regents. Proposed changes to associated APS 1038: New Degree Program Approval, are to ensure alignment with updated language in Regent Policy 4.B.3 and APS 1019: Degree Program Review, which is also under review.

II. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Edits are suggested throughout the APS to align with Regent Policy 4.B language, including the addition of periodic independent audits of campus program review processes relative to APS 1038 requirements.

Edits are proposed to clarify the following:
- Relocation of first sentence of Section I: Introduction to Section III: History (Updated in Draft 1; 11/20/25)
- Faculty of an academic unit develop new degree program proposals "through their shared governance process."
- The vice president of academic affairs will review degree proposals with the president, who in turn approves forwarding proposals to the regents for consideration.
- When programs are "interdisciplinary" involving more than one school/college, all involved units must participate in the review process.
- Minor updates to phrases and wording are included throughout (e.g., "board" is changed to "Board of Regents") (Updated in Draft 1; 11/20/25)

Requirements are revised for reporting new degree program progress as follows:
- Rather than annually reporting headcount enrollment and number of degrees awarded for new programs every year for the five years immediately after degree approval, proposed edits require a report of this data at the completion of their fifth year of operation showing enrollment and degrees awarded in year one through year five.
- The report acts as the first program review for the new degree and will include analyses of program performance relative to projections for enrollment and degrees awarded in the original proposal, which will provide the basis for goals and plans for the next review period.
- Goals and plans in the report for the next review period must be approved by the dean, provost, and chancellor.

Content currently found in "Section II.B: Guidelines for Program Proposals" has been moved to Appendix A. There are edits proposed throughout Appendix A to clarify wording and phrasing.

Current Appendix A with templates for enrollment/degrees awarded and revenue/expenditure projections is shifted to a new Appendix B.

III. **LEAD STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN THE POLICY REVIEW**

- Provosts
- Faculty Council Educational Policy and University Standards Committee
- Campus Faculty Assemblies
- University Counsel

IV. **LEGAL REVIEW**

A. Do you think legal review would be required for these proposed changes? **Yes**

   1. If no, please explain.

   2. If yes, what is your plan to get the legal review? **TBD**

B. Date legal review completed: **TBD**

C. Person completing legal review: **Erica Weston**

V. **FISCAL REVIEW**

Are there any financial (human resources, technology, operations, training, etc.) or other resource impacts of implementing this policy (e.g., cost savings, start-up costs, additional time for faculty or staff, new systems, or software)? **No.**

If yes, please explain: