

Date: May 21, 2014

To: Lehman College Community

From: Program Prioritization Steering Committee

RE: Update on Program Prioritization

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This spring Lehman College launched a process to analyze all academic and administrative programs. The goal of this *Program Prioritization* is to ensure that academic and administrative services align with Lehman College's mission, the "Achieving the Vision" strategic plan, the needs of our students, and the needs of our Bronx and New York communities.

Prioritization is the opportunity to review our programs – honestly and transparently – as we navigate the ever-changing landscape of higher education. That landscape includes increasing state and federal budget constraints, the possibility of limits on future tuition increases when the current CUNY Compact ends in FY' 16, and changes in national higher education policy. Prioritization of programs is *not a budget or reduction-in-force analysis, but a proactive effort to shape our programs and services for the rapidly evolving needs of the Lehman College community during the coming years and decades.*

As outlined by President Fernández in February 2014, a Prioritization Steering Committee is leading the process. The Steering Committee, co-chaired by Anny Morrobel-Sosa, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Vincent Clark, Vice President of Finance, oversees two task forces: Academic and Administrative. Each task force is made up of faculty, staff, and administrators representing the wide variety of academic departments, disciplines, and administrative units. Task force members were appointed from nominations solicited from across the Lehman College community. They are charged to serve as "trustees" and to frame a methodical and transparent analysis process that is fact and data-driven, with no predetermined objective beyond crafting programs and services that will meet the needs of our community well into the future.

Since March 12, task force members have reviewed academic literature and examined peer institutions that have recently implemented or completed their own program prioritization processes. The task forces are working to define program analysis criteria for Lehman's process – with a focus on criteria that allows programs to share extant qualitative and quantitative data that can be assessed reliably. Equally important during this process is that the Prioritization criteria be vetted by the task forces and Steering Committee and then shared with you.

For more information and regular updates, please visit <http://www.lehman.edu/program-prioritization>.