

Academic Portfolio Review Update – Sept 2021

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Dear Saint Louis University community,

With the new academic year under way, I want to provide an update on the Academic Portfolio Review Committee (APRC) process and where it stands since [my last update in June](#).

As I noted in that message, many programs decided it was not necessary to meet with me, so the initial decisions to close those programs became final. A list of those program closures, or alternative decisions made at the time, are available on the [APRC website](#) (you must be logged into Google using your mySLU account to access the Google site).

Over the summer, three programs from two separate departments decided to submit alternative proposals that I have accepted, reversing the initial decision to close those programs. One of those programs, the MA in Women's and Gender Studies, has asked to pause enrollment for the time being. This decision was included in the June 11 message. The other two programs, the BA and minor in American Studies, submitted an alternative proposal to remain open, and I have accepted their proposal.

I want to briefly share the rationale for changing my initial decisions. These departments, Women's and Gender Studies and American Studies, noted that SLU's new University Core has the potential to increase student interest in their disciplines, both in terms of enrollment in majors/minors and credit hours taken. In addition to finding their arguments persuasive, I strongly agree that the design of our new Core is such that the courses and content offered by these two departments, as well as by many others, align well with the Core's graduation-level student learning outcomes.

My decision to accept these two departments' alternative proposals was made because I view these as areas where there is likely to be emerging student interest and a positive trajectory for these programs in the coming years.

Finally, programs where a decision has not yet been made are in varying stages of providing alternative proposals for my consideration. I continue to be in conversation with these programs, department chairs and deans, with the goal of reaching final decisions by the end of the fall semester. I appreciate everyone's work on continuing the APR process and bringing it to a conclusion soon.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost