

Proposal Form: Fitchburg State University All University Committee 2025-2026

Proposal Summary

1. Proposal Title: *

Academic Affairs Assessment and Research Special Committee (AARC)

For purposes of the AUC database, the proposal title may be changed.

2. Brief Proposal Summary *

This proposal seeks to rename and reform the University Assessment and Research Committee (UARC) as a special committee within Academic Affairs called the ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT and RESEARCH COMMITTEE (AARC). The proposal also seeks to decrease the total number of committee members from 16 to 10.

All proposals that involve curriculum change(s) require review by the Department Curriculum and the Department Chair.

3. Sponsoring Department*

Provost's Office, MSCA

4. Contact Person*

Provost/EVP Patricia Marshall and Linda LeBlanc

5. Contact Email*

pmarsha5@fitchburgstate.edu; lileblanc@fitchburgstate.edu

6. Contact Phone*.

x3653

Rationale

28. Rationale for the Proposal*

The purpose of the AARC will be to sustain and improve the culture of assessment, accreditation and overall performance within Academic Affairs through a systematic approach of assessing student learning outcomes, student success measures and academic performance measures.

The AARC's charge is to work, in collaboration with Academic Departments and the Office of Institutional Research to:

- Review, continuously monitor, and enable analysis of data that will improve academic performance;
- Facilitate departmental- and program-level student learning assessment activities that sustain regional and discipline specific professional accreditation;
- Encourage departmental-level performance assessment activities that will improve institutional performance (Deans and chairs may meet with the committee for assistance/guidance in completing assessment reports and/or submit drafts of assessment reports for committee feedback.)
- Identify and recommend assessment-related professional development opportunities for the university community to support the assessment of university programs; and
- Champion assessment culture across the institution and Inform Fitchburg State faculty and staff of assessment-related tasks and deadlines critical for the continuous improvement and assessment of programs, departments, colleges, and the University.

AARC membership will include constituencies across the Academic Affairs division in order to promote collaboration, communication, and collegiality regarding university-wide assessment measures. The proposal also seeks to decrease the total number of committee members from 16 representatives to a total of 10. AARC will be composed of the following ten (10) representatives, with the Academic Dean appointed for a two-year term and the 6 MSCA representatives for staggered two-year terms:

- Academic Dean (1)
- Director for Accreditation and Assessment (1) (Chair)
- Chair General Education Program Area (1)
- CTL Director (1)
- MSCA Faculty/Librarians (6): One Representative from every Academic School, the Library, and SGOCE preferred