**GLOSSARY**

The definitions provided in the list were adapted from various sources.

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* **Academic Program Review (APR):** a transparent, collaborative, and comprehensive process providing faculty and administration with information needed to support and guide a university process of continual program planning, quality improvement, and resource allocation. Conducted on an established cycle, this review includes a comprehensive analysis of the structure, processes, and outcomes of the program with results typically reported to senior university leadership and the Board of Trustees.
* **Accreditation:** the process by which an institution’s academic programs are reviewed by external agencies that evaluate the institution’s ability to deliver the education it promises.
* **Annual Report:** a unit or program’s report on assessment activities achievements, and challenges over the past year.
* **Assessment:** the annual process of critical self-examination with the aim of program or unit improvement. The assessment process involves gathering evidence about a selected outcome, making meaning of the gathered evidence, determining if results are satisfactory, implementing any necessary action plans, and reassessing an outcome to determine if changes were effective.
* **Assessment Plan:** a document that outlines the unit outcomes, assessment methods used to collect evidence related to the attainment of each outcome, and the intervals at which the evidence is collected and reviewed.
* **Assessment Report:** a unit’s report on assessment results and any necessary action plans if expected criteria was not met.
* **Closing the Loop:** when a unit makes a change in response to assessment results revealing that the criterion has not been met, measures the effect of those changes, and determines that the unit has achieved the expected criterion.
* **Institutional Effectiveness:** the on-going, comprehensive process that integrates strategic planning, assessment, periodic unit comprehensive review, annual reporting, and resource allocations for the purpose of improvement.
* **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS):** A system of surveys, administered by the National Center for Educational Statistics, used to collect information from all postsecondary educational institutions. Data includes information about enrollments, program completions, faculty, staff and finances.
* **Outcome:** a broad statement meant to relate one of the main aims of a campus unit or department. Administrative unit outcomes are primarily process-oriented, describing the support process/service the unit intends to address. Unit outcomes should be under the direct control of the unit and in-line with a University Strategic Plan goal, objective, and strategy.
* **Reporting unit:** the organizational level at which assessment or periodic comprehensive review happens. Units include all organizational entities that provide educational and administrative programs or services; includes departments, programs, offices, centers, and operational units.
* **Result:** a desired new outcome that produces a measurable gain for the organizational and /or its constituents.
* **Strategy:** a plan of action created to achieve a goal or to address a strategic issue.
* **Target:** specific values for assessment measures that represent the desired end result.