

Date: February 2nd, 2019

TO: WSU Faculty Senate

FROM: Faculty Senate Steering Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Greg Crouch, Faculty senate chair-elect



SUBJECT: Degree approval pathway to include "fast track" option.

WSU's Office of the Provost has requested that Faculty Senate modify current practices to allow expediting certain program and degree changes. Senate Steering spent several months collaborating with provost's office, the registrar, and associated Senate committee chairs to draft the suggested modifications. Current policies are found here:

<https://provost.wsu.edu/procedures/degree-approval/>.

Suggested modifications to the existing process are listed below. Please note:

- 1) Units proposing degree changes have budgetary control. To this end, Senate Budget Committee Chair Greg Rose, in consultation with WSU's VP for Finance and Administration, agreed that certain degree changes rightly should bypass senate budget review. For example, the process of extending an existing degree to another campus. These changes are consistent with the guidelines from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).
- 2) These changes also better accommodate the reduced number of meetings with the Board of Regents, who under the existing rules, must approve all changes, no matter how minor. The proposed changes outlined below cede fast track eligible changes to the local authority.
- 3) Senate would assure that all stakeholders have been consulted and are in agreement with any degree changes. Communication of such proposals would officially include campus faculty organizations (Resident Faculty Organization and Council of Faculty Representatives) in addition to campuses' Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs.
- 4) If degree changes are deemed inappropriate to fast track, they will default to the longer review process. Units seeking fast track changes will consult with the provost's office during the NOI phase to vet the appropriateness of the request, but if a change is rerouted to the standard review process, it may add additional time to the process.

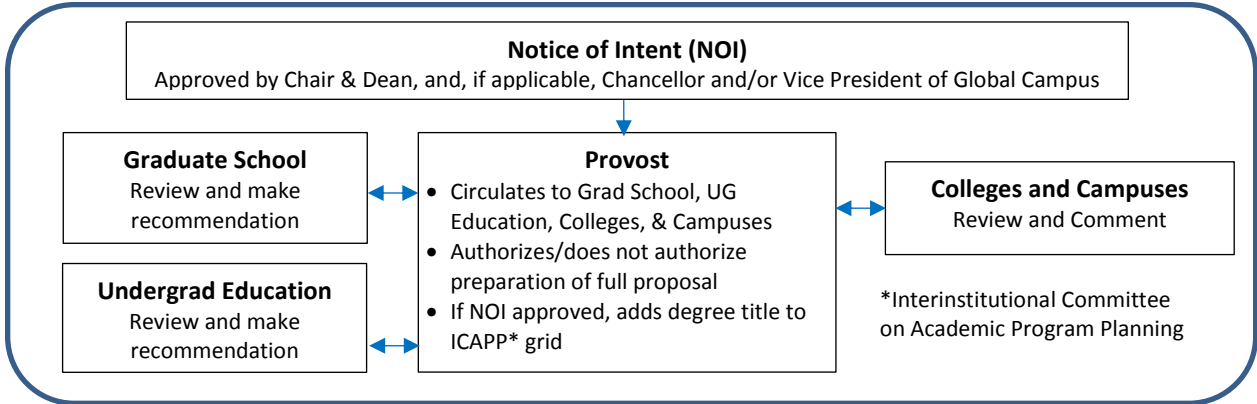
WSU Senate Steering moves that the processes outlined in this memo and attach flow charts be accepted.

Review Process for New Degrees and Selected Degree Changes

Current Degree Change Pathway

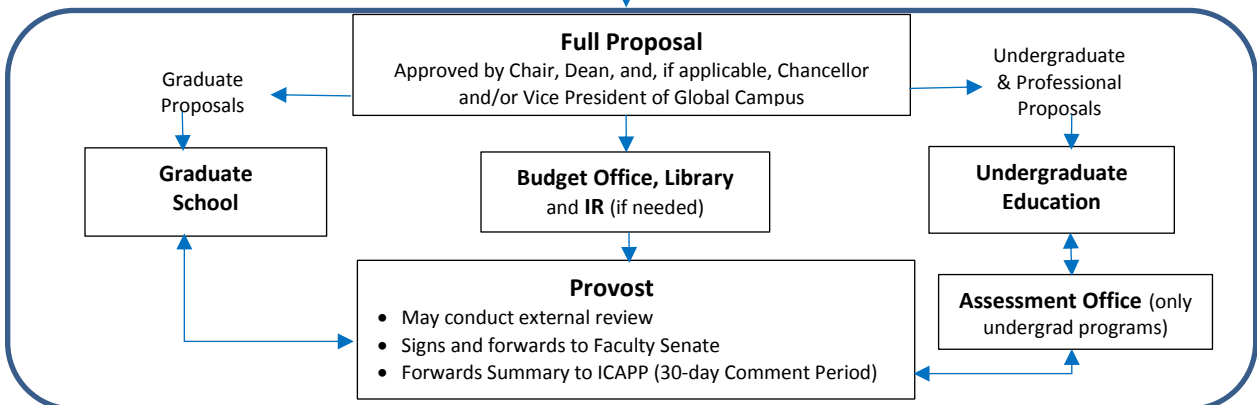
Pre-Proposal Phase

(Goal: 14 days)



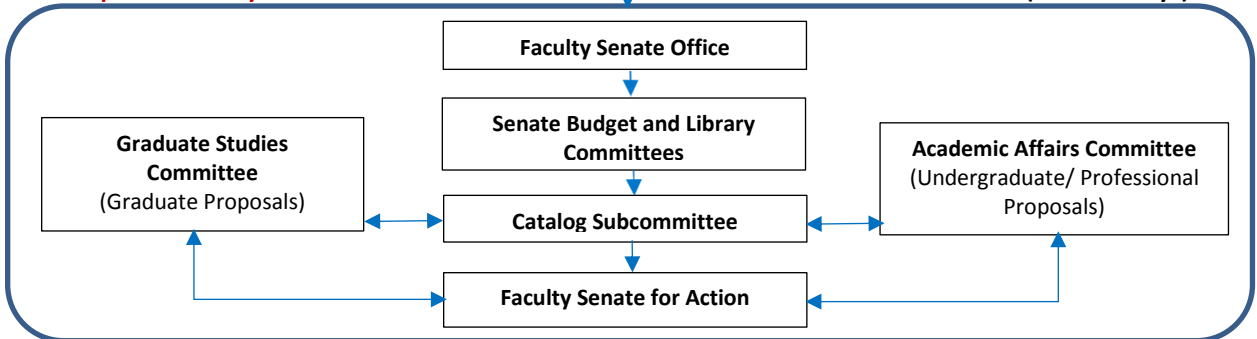
Full Proposal - Provost Phase (fulfilled by NOI for lesser changes)

(Goal: 14 days)



Full Proposal - Faculty Senate Phase

(Goal: 60 days)



Board of Regents Action—variable timeline

External Approval Phase

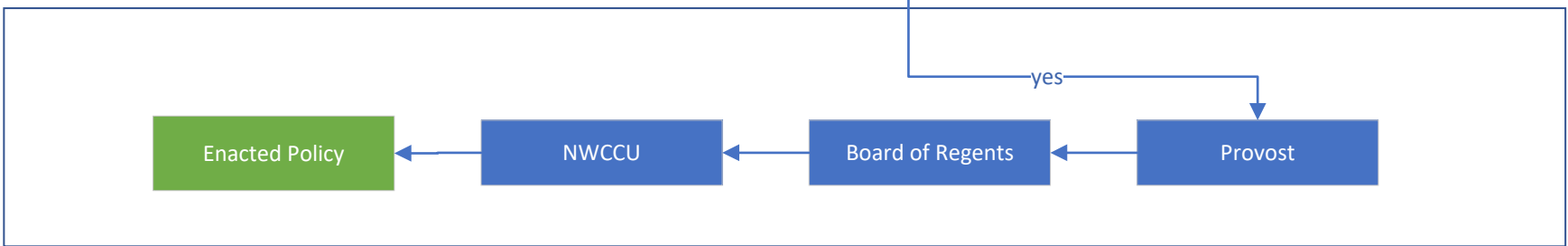
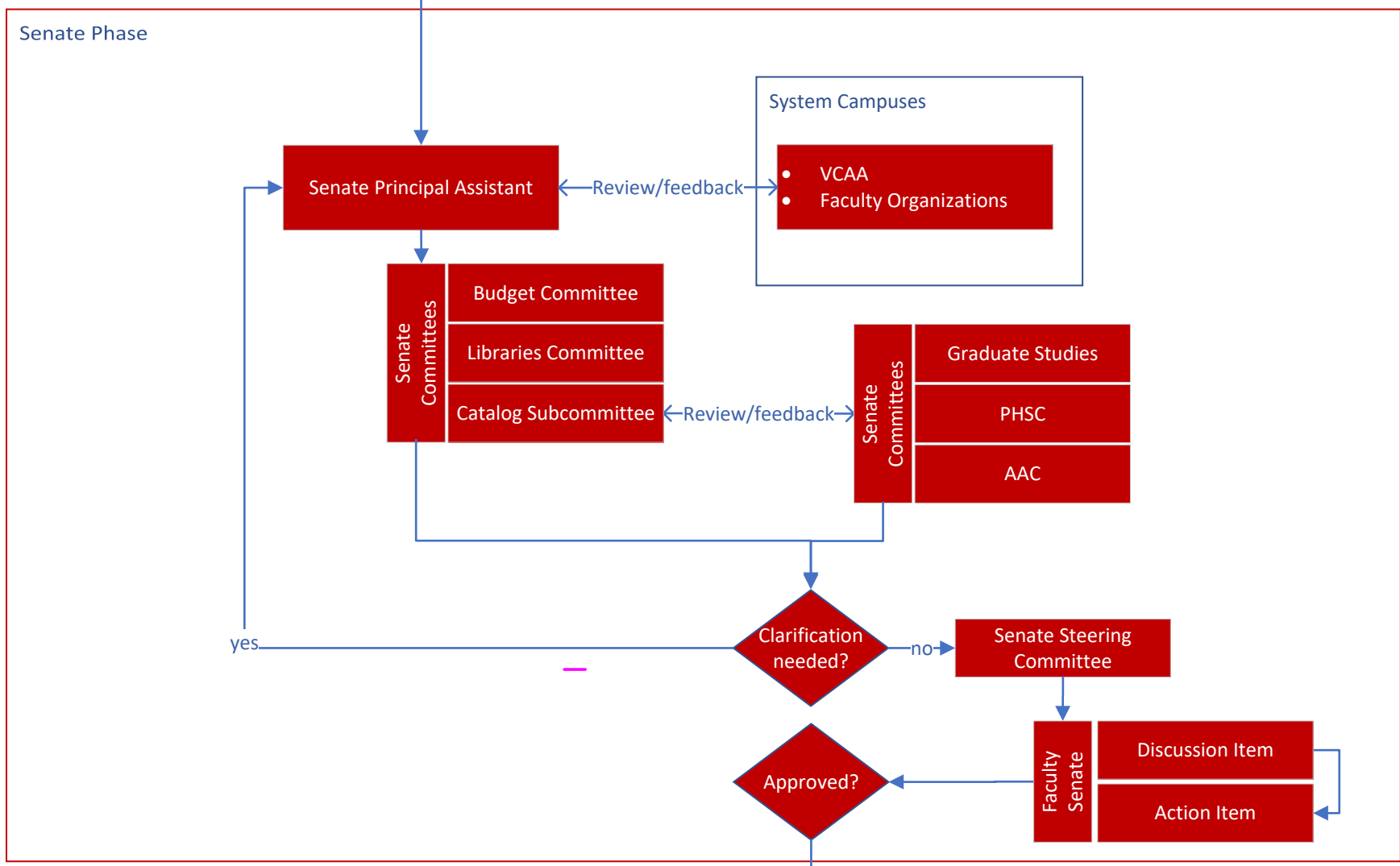
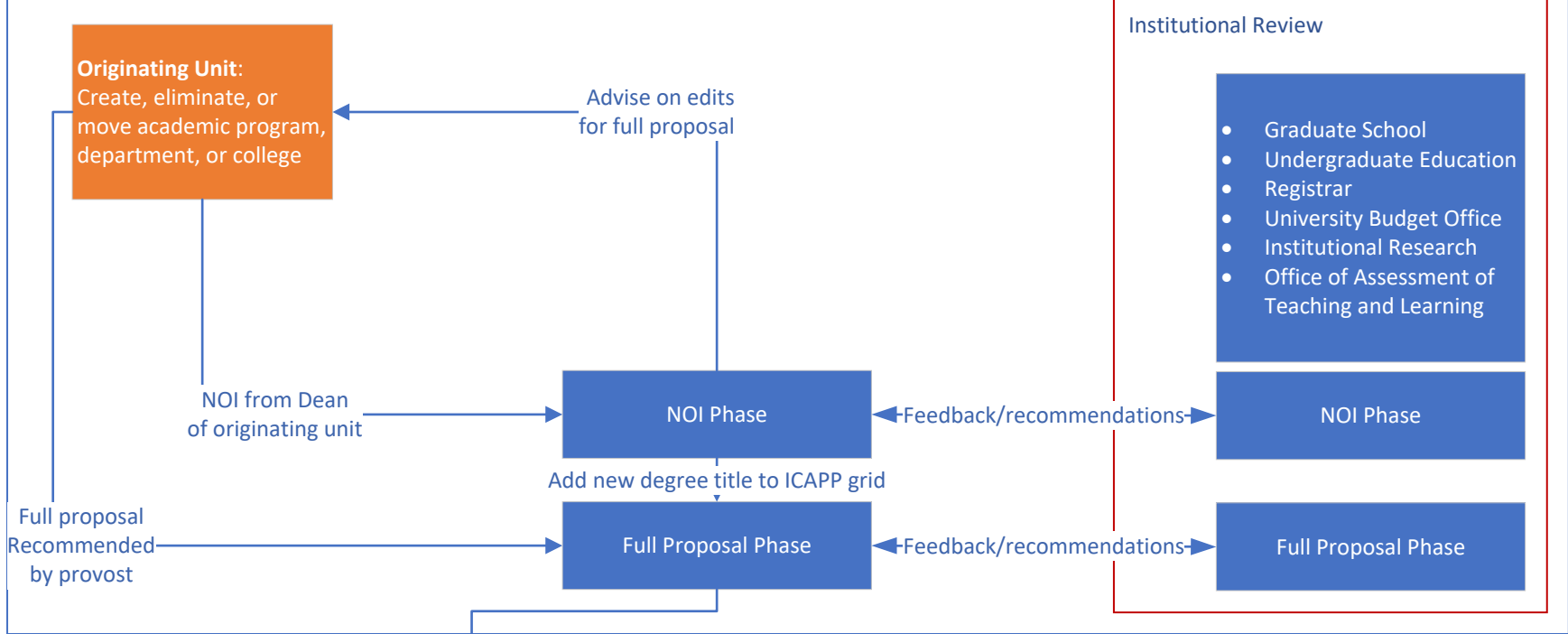
NWCCU approval—variable timeline

With NWCCU approval, program can advertise
Provost reports approval to:

- Department, College, Campus
- Graduate School, Institutional Research, Registrar, Student Financial Svs
- ICAPP
- WA Student Achievement Council

Dir. Fin Aid reports to Department of Education (approval req'd for Fin Aid)

Proposed Full Review Degree Change Pathway



Proposed Fast Track Degree Change Pathway

