

Triple Policy Redux

Three policies from Faculty Senate

- Per Faculty's primary responsibility for curriculum (3.2.1), Faculty Senate has passed forward two documents for which faculty are responsible:
 - Academic Program Initiation and Academic Program Discontinuation (3.2.1.5)
- Per Faculty's responsibility over faculty status (e.g. tenure and promotion), Faculty Senate has passed forward proposed changes to the Faculty Termination Policy (3.2.3)

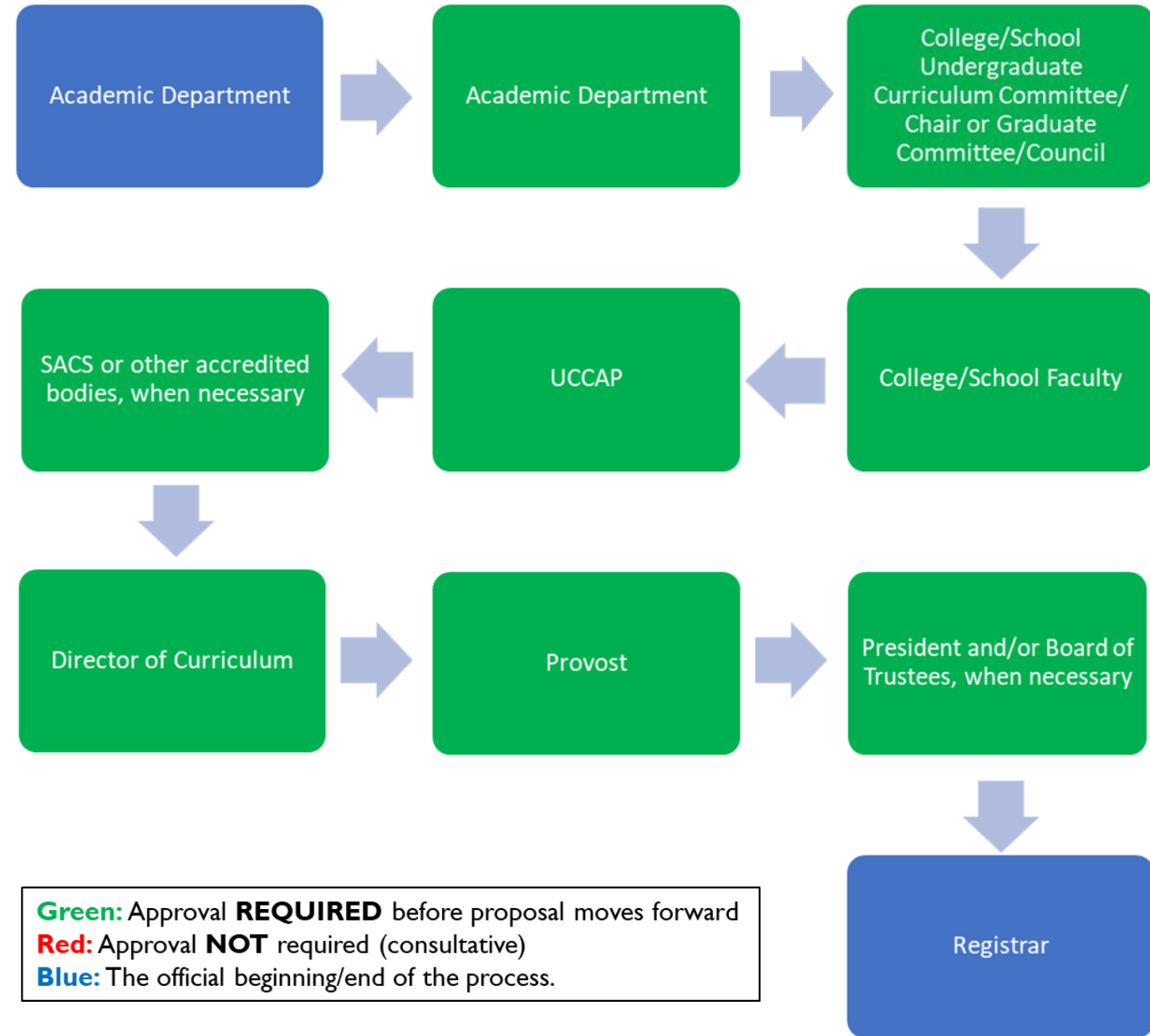
The First Question: what is our current process for program closing?

- Truism: there are always differences in interpretation.
- However, to function as an accredited university, we do have to establish and publish some clear processes that we should all understand and abide by.
- For instance, SACS requires us have a [Substantive Change Policy](#).
 - The policy describes how we manage substantive changes, which are required to be reported to SACS.
 - “At Stetson University, proposed academic curricular and program changes are submitted by department chairs, program directors and faculty to a college or school curriculum committee for review and approval. College and school curriculum committees review and approve all proposed curricular changes, including course changes, new courses, new programs, program closure, and academic policy changes.”
 - “Examples of substantive changes include: opening new or closing existing programs; establishing an off-campus instructional site; and entering into a Joint or Dual degree program with another institution.” (pg. 3)

The Current Process

From Stetson's Substantive Change Policy:

1. "Curriculum proposals typically originate at the department or program level"
2. "The department chair(s) will forward a recommendation for curriculum change to the appropriate College or School curriculum committee."
3. "College and school curriculum committees review and approve **all proposed curricular changes**, including course changes, new courses, new programs, **program closure**, and academic policy changes."
4. "The College/School curriculum committee will follow College/School protocol for curriculum review and recommendations (including faculty vote, as appropriate) and will forward a recommendation for curriculum change to the appropriate University curriculum committee, either UGEC or UCCAP."
5. "UCCAP is responsible for reviewing and approving course and program proposals."
6. "changes ... requiring Provost approval shall be submitted to the Provost for review and approval."
7. "When Board of Trustees approval is required...the President will submit the proposed change to the Board of Trustees for review and approval."



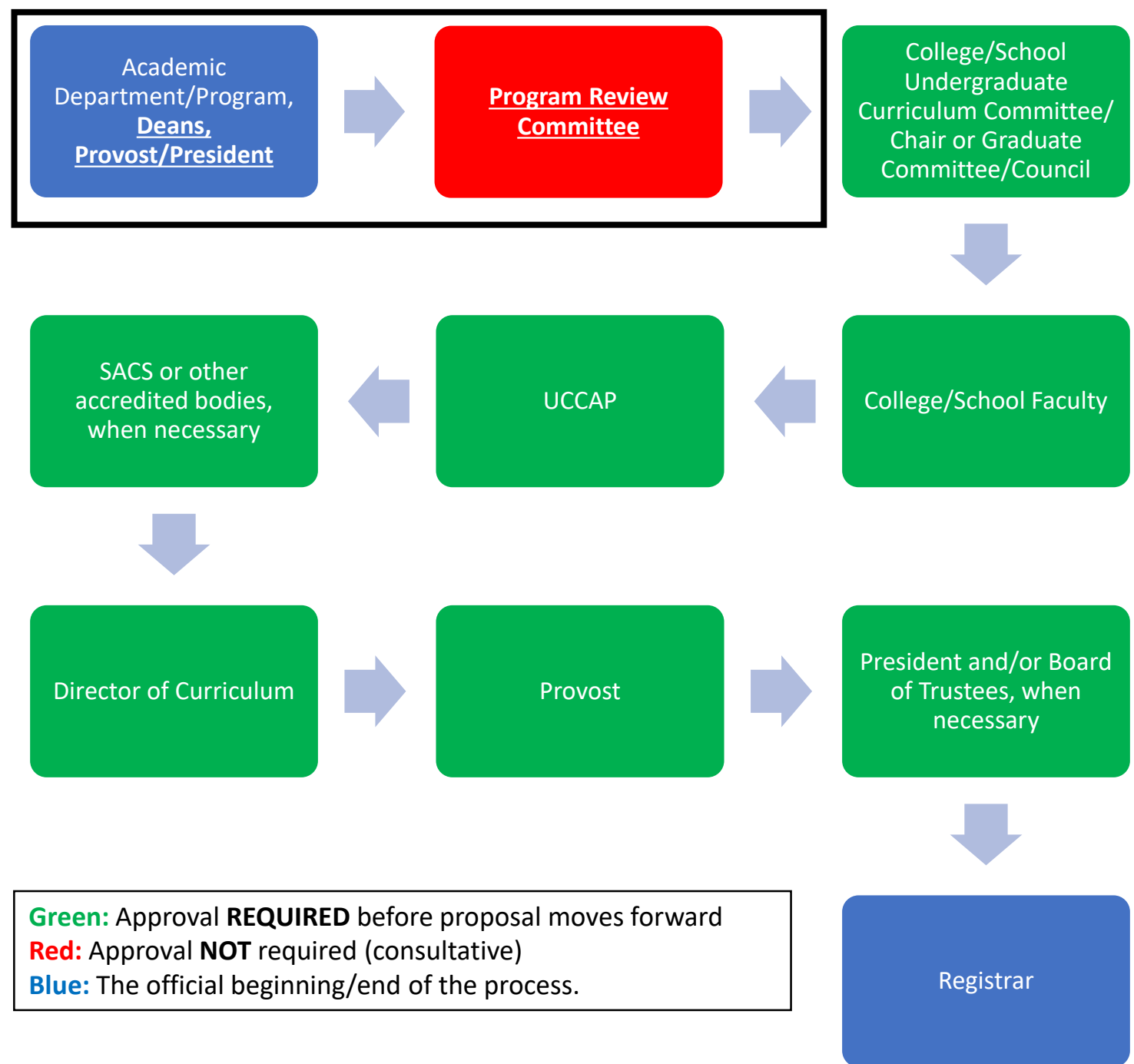
The Triple Policy Proposal for Closing Academic Programs

In 2016 and 2019 versions of the Program Discontinuation Policy, administration asked for the ability to initiate program closure.

1. This is allowed in the Bylaws if we, the Faculty, approve it – that language on departmental/program approval is not as strict as college/school approval.

2. Faculty approved this in 2019 with the understanding that after any initiation a PRC would review the proposal and then it would go into the regular curricular process with the college curriculum committee.

3. The 2019 policy was written to work fully within existing Bylaws and approval processes.

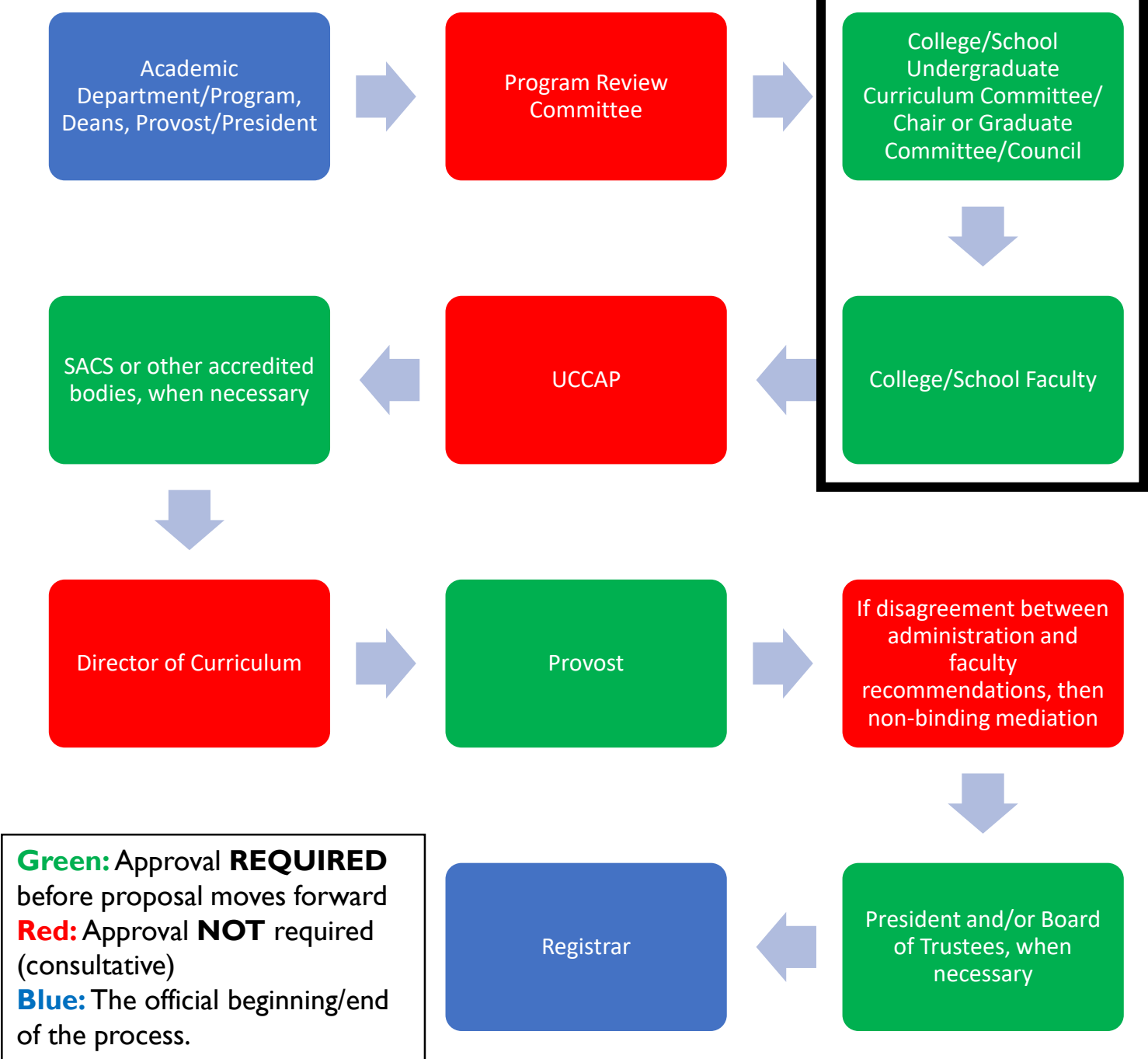


2021 Proposal for Closing Academic Programs, as presented to Faculty Senate on 9/3/21

After two years of discussion with no agreement between Faculty and the academic administration, President Roellke proposed an amended process at the UCCAP level last May.

1. This process changes UCCAP’s role to recommending/consultative, and establishes a non-binding mediation process if UCCAP disagrees with the Provost’s decision.

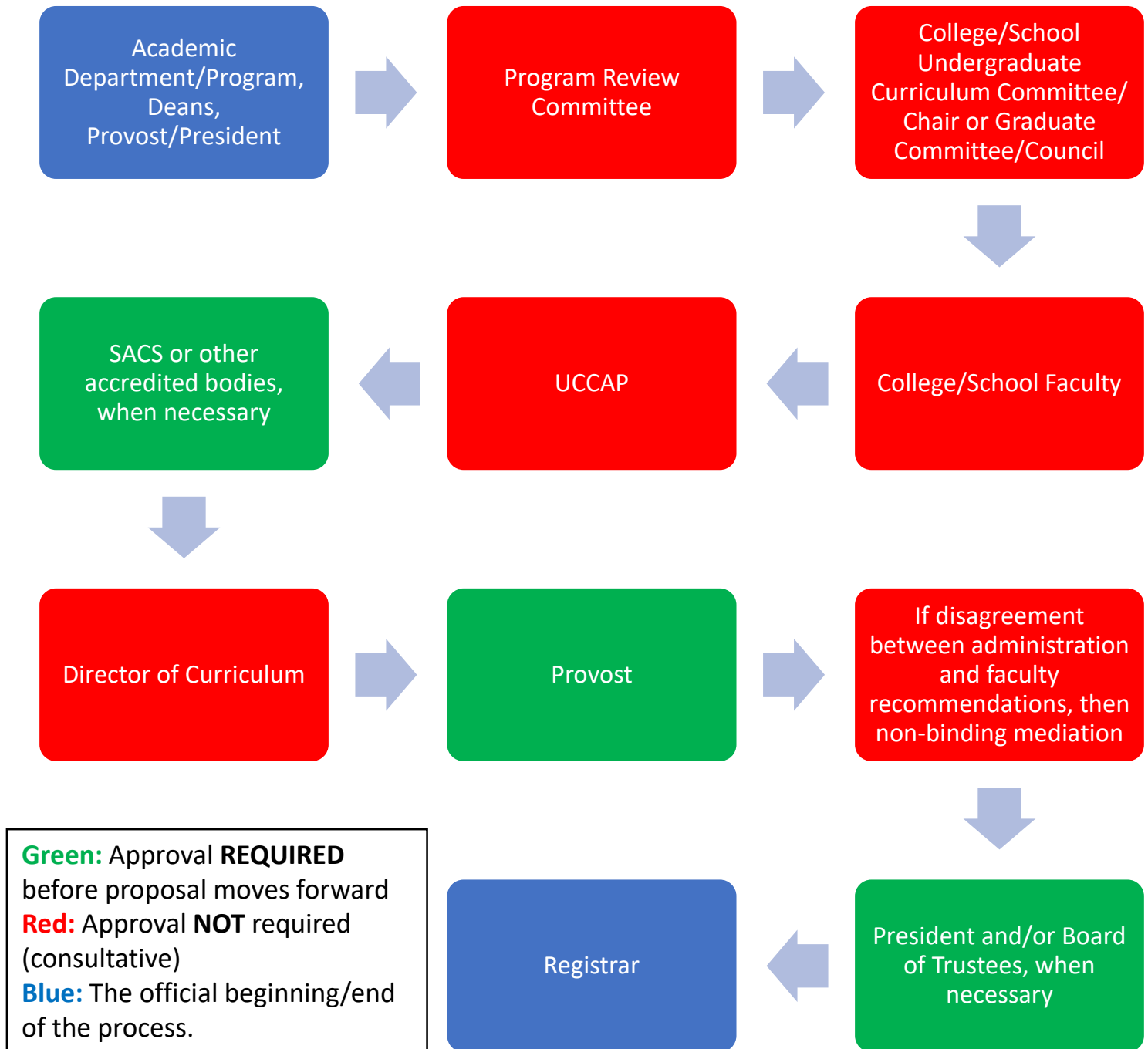
2. President Roellke’s proposal only changed the language of the 2019 policy with regards to UCCAP, and it was thus presented to the Faculty Senate this Fall as illustrated here, which is still in alignment with Faculty Bylaws 3.2.1.2.: “School and College faculties establish and **must approve** changes to the curricula...and degree requirements for their respective School or College.”



The Current Proposal for Closing Academic Programs

As discussed at our September University Faculty Meeting, the Provost indicated after the September 3rd Senate vote that the Academic Administration does not interpret the current proposal as requiring faculty approval at the college level.

1. That interpretation is the one that matters, and it is illustrated here.
2. A policy that does not require college/school faculty approval of curricular changes is in direct violation of Faculty Bylaws 3.2.1.2.
3. Passing policies in contradiction of the Bylaws is poor governance. It creates confusion and potential avenues for actions that are not transparent and may contradict what we have committed to for accreditation.
4. If those actions lead to termination, there is potential legal liability as well.



Are programs distinct from curriculum?

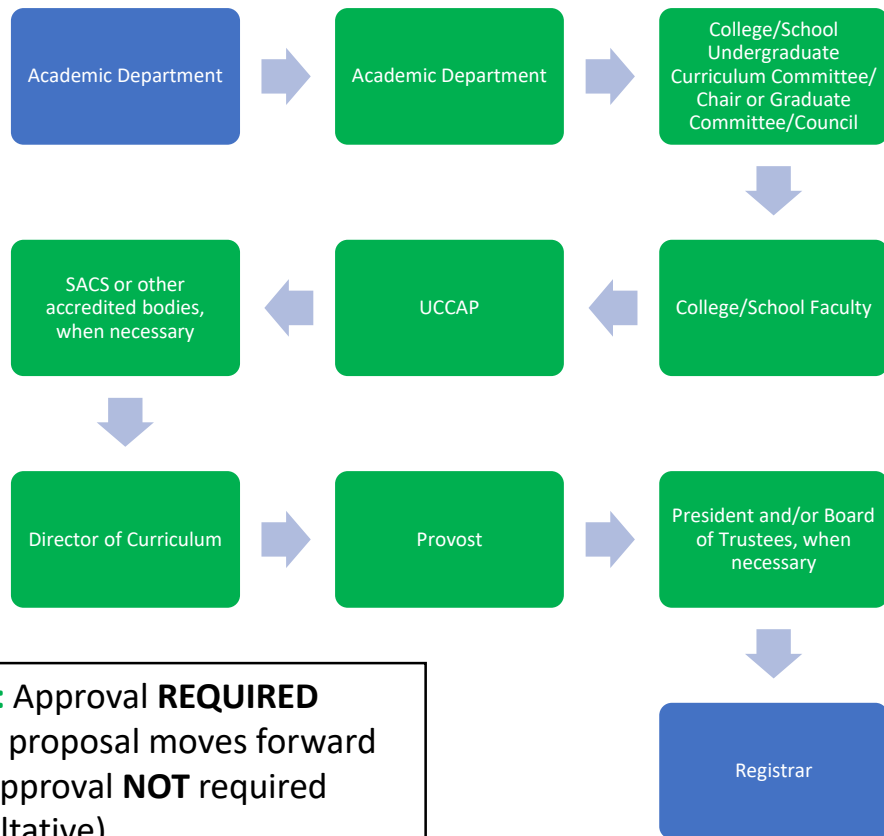
- I believe there is shared understanding that academic programs include both curricular and non-curricular components.
 - Faculty approval is required for the curricular components.
 - Program closure would entail eliminating all components of a program, and thus also requires faculty approval of the curricular components.
 - AAUP is clear on this matter.
 - This is also what we report to SACS, as mentioned previously.

An unusual situation

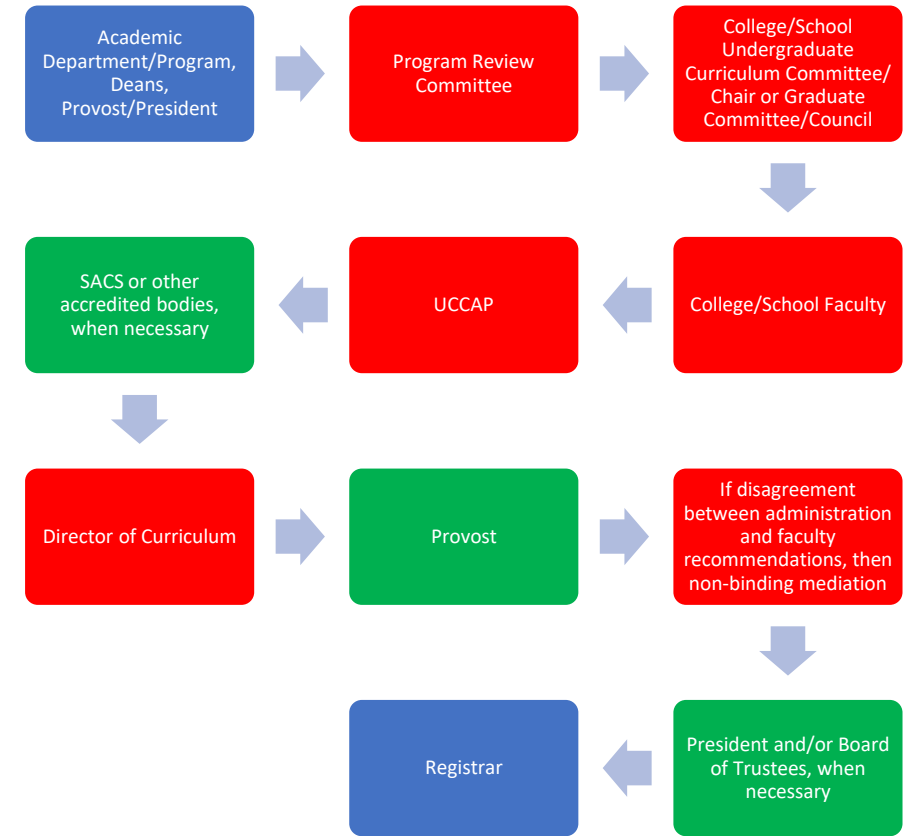
- I asked the Faculty Senate to send the program discontinuation policy to you, as presented on 9/3 with the understanding that it was within our Faculty Bylaws.
 - I believed this was a good-faith effort to give President Roellke's proposal a fair hearing and hopefully reach some agreement to move forward.
- After the clarification on how administration would apply the policy, in a way that contradicts the Faculty Bylaws, I no longer believe that Faculty should be considering that policy.
 - If our disagreement is about what the Bylaws should or should not do, then it is appropriate to discuss changing Bylaws. It is never appropriate to try to pass policies that circumvent existing Bylaws.

The Current Closing Process compared to the Proposed Closing Process

CURRENT CLOSING PROCESS



PROPOSED CLOSING PROCESS



Green: Approval **REQUIRED** before proposal moves forward
Red: Approval **NOT** required (consultative)
Blue: The official beginning/end of the process.