

June 12, 2018

Academic Affairs Committee



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

Revised Program Approval Process for Public Institutions

AAC Meeting | June 12, 2018

Revised Program Approval Process

Background and Rationale

- Resolution Regarding Approach to Program Approval and Strategic Planning (BHE 16-07)
- An approach to program approval that takes into consideration the long-term strategic plan and rationale of any proposed program
- To accomplish this goal, a high-level review should occur at the outset of the process, not after campuses and the Department have spent time and resources to put a program forward for approval
- Place more emphasis on the rationale for the program and its alignment with campus and system-level goals, rather than academic matters

Revised Program Approval Process

Timeline

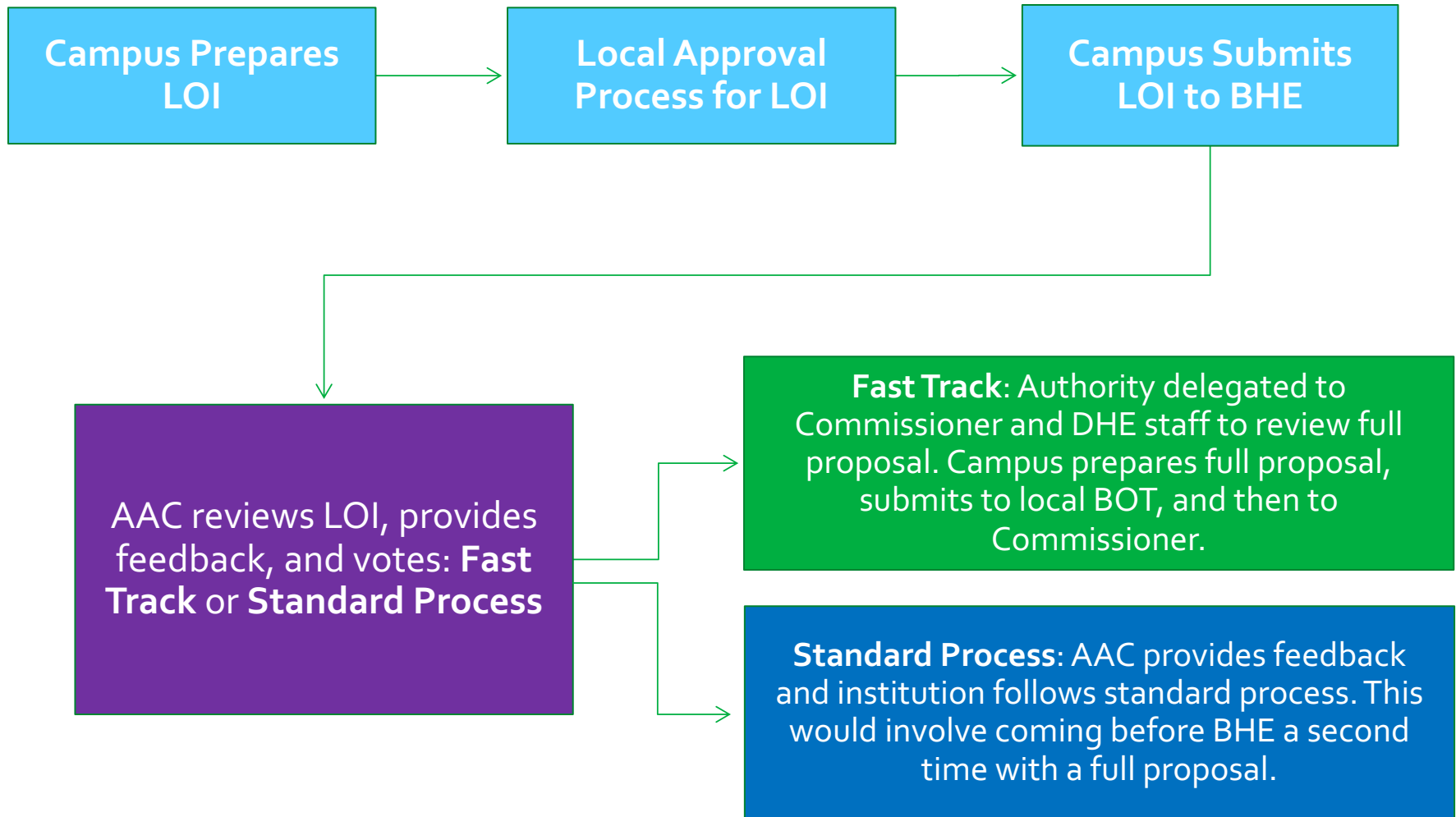
2016	May	Resolution 16-07 DHE staff began working with Board and campuses to create revised procedure, continued through March 2017
2017	March	Revised Procedures (2017) presented to Board
	Spring	Revised Procedures (2017) out for Public Comment
	December	Stakeholder feedback presented to AAC
2018	January	Identification of issues needing further research/consideration
	February	Presentation of Program Approval for 3 UMass-selected peer institutions and public comment
	March	Further refinement of new procedures based on stakeholder feedback
	April	AAC discussion and approval of final <i>Revised Procedures</i> (2018)
	May	Check-in with CAO's through distribution of April 2018 Power Point
	June	AAC 18-40, <i>Revised Procedures</i>

Revised Program Approval Process

Revised Procedures (2018)

- **Establish three high-level areas that the Board will take under consideration in its review of the LOI:**
 - Alignment with MA goals for public higher education
 - Alignment with campus strategic plan
 - Alignment with operational and financial objectives of the institution
- **Create a new two-phase process:**
 - Phase 1: Letter of Intent and Board Vote on Approval Track
 - Phase 2: Preparation, Submission, and Review of Full Program Proposal

Revised Program Approval Process



Revised Program Approval Process

■ **Motion:**

- **Adopt the “Revised Procedures for New Academic Program Proposals for the Commonwealth’s Public Institutions of Higher Education”**
- **Charge the Commissioner** to develop an implementation plan, which shall include working with representatives from public higher education to finalize the Letter of Intent template
- **“Revised Procedures” supersede** any past policies or practices of the BHE governing the same subject