

Proposed Changes: Academic Program Planning & Review

**Montana University System
Board of Regents Meeting
November 21, 2019
Montana State University - Bozeman**

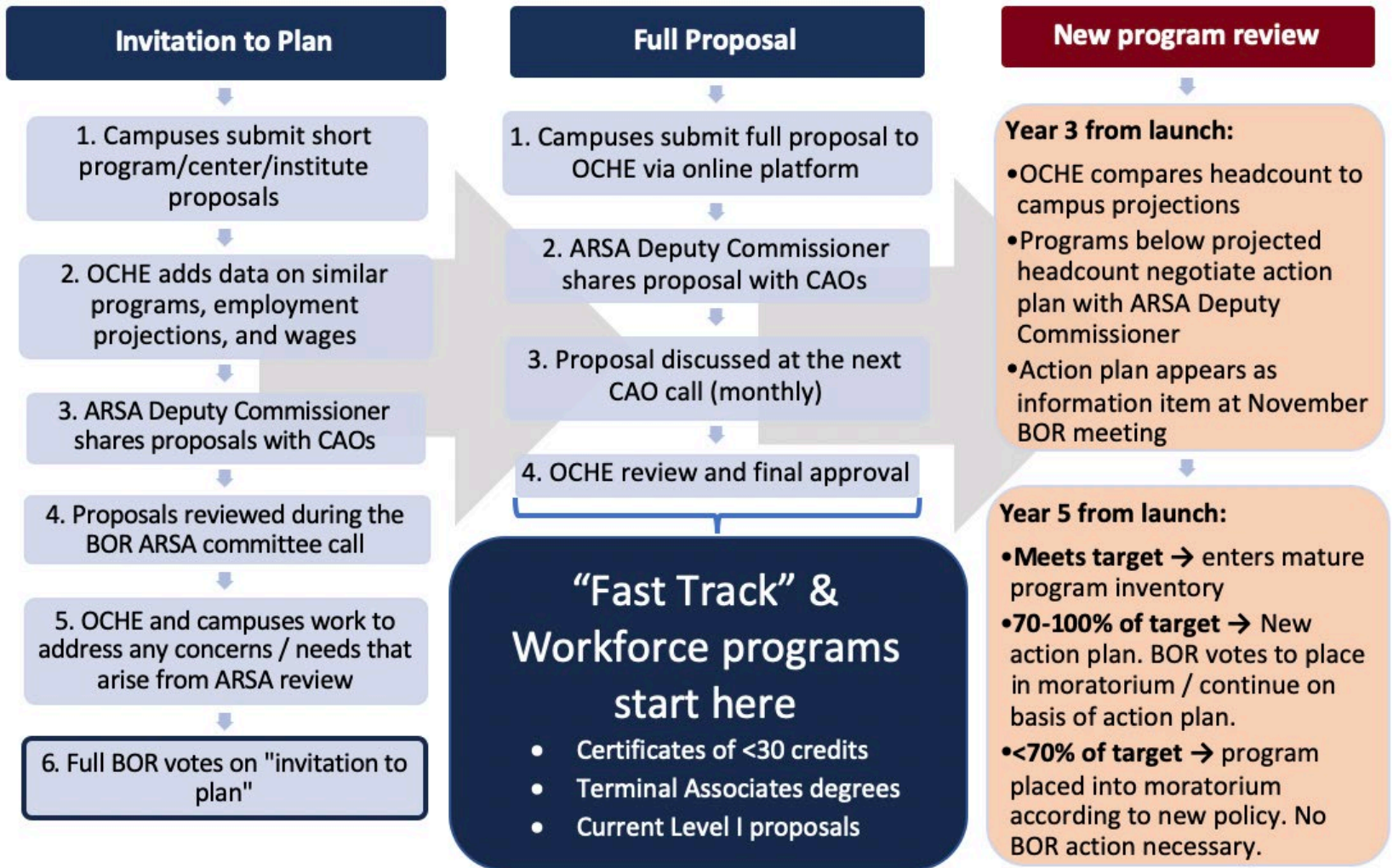


The Rationale for Change

1. Need to accelerate launch of new academic programs related to workforce and economic development.
2. Need to give the Board of Regents a more meaningful point of engagement with the planning and approval process.
3. Need for a more robust review process for recently launched programs.



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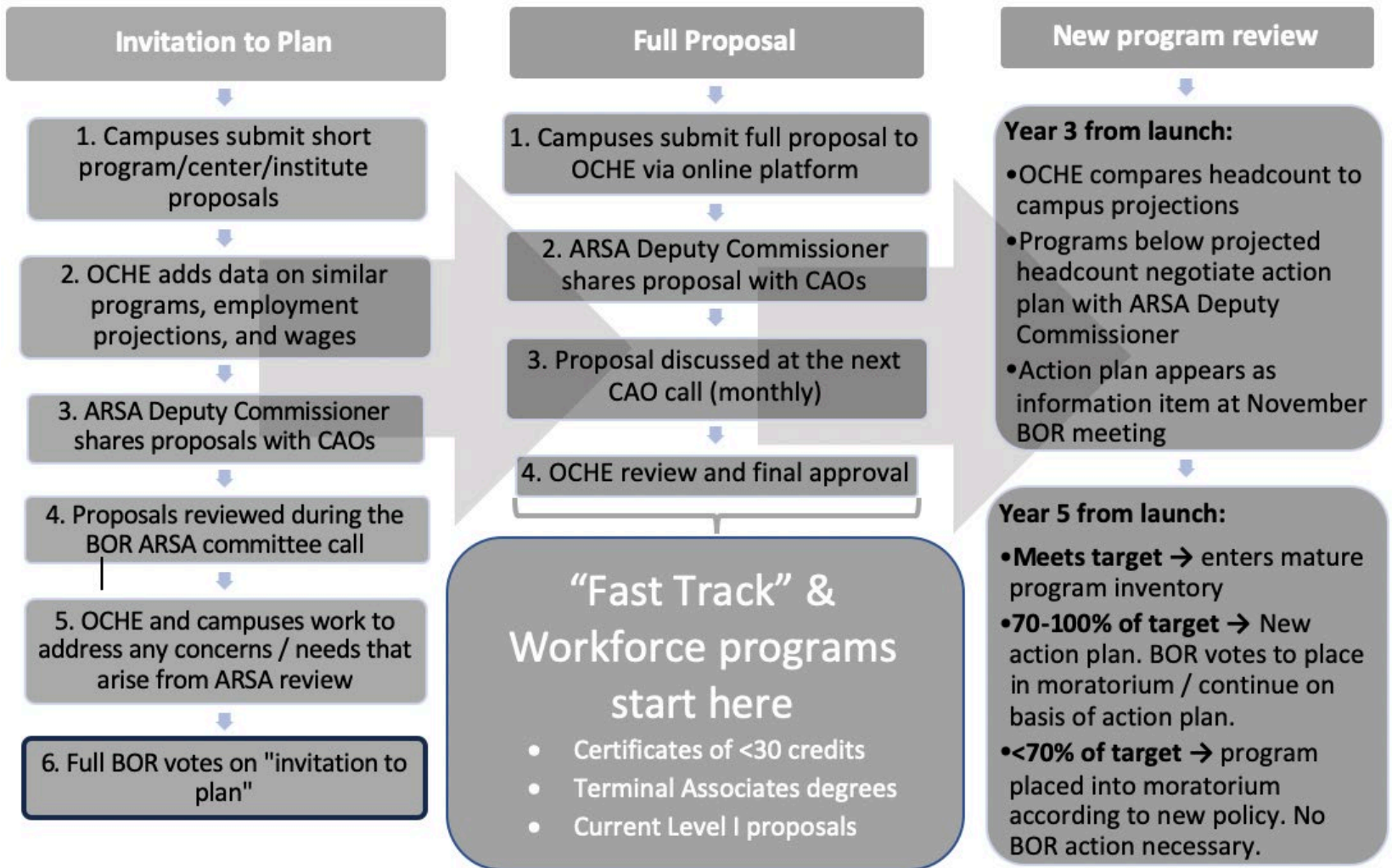


Mission Alignment

Annual presentation to BOR by campus CEO or designee outlining academic vision and connecting academic directions for coming year to the campus mission



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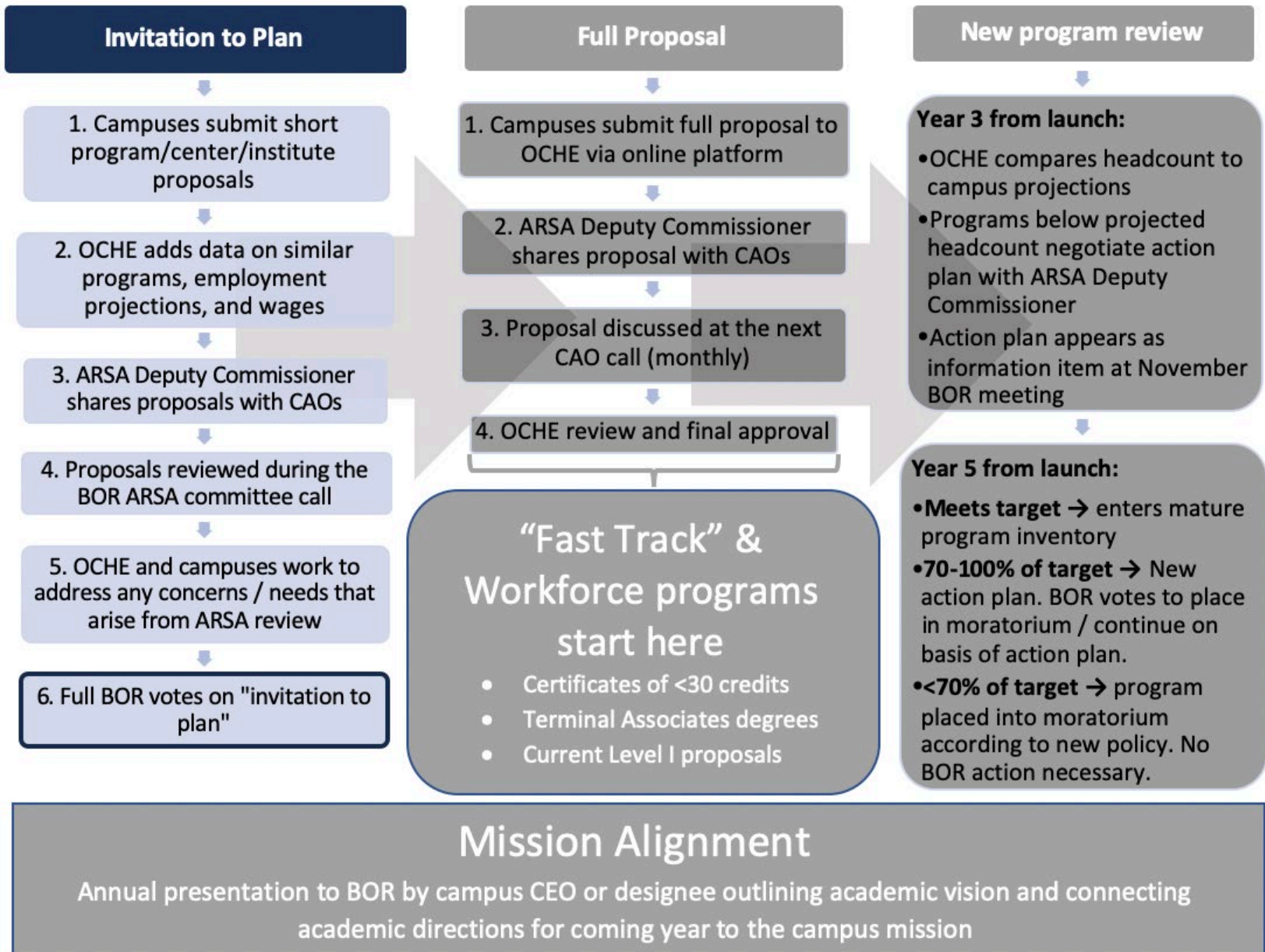


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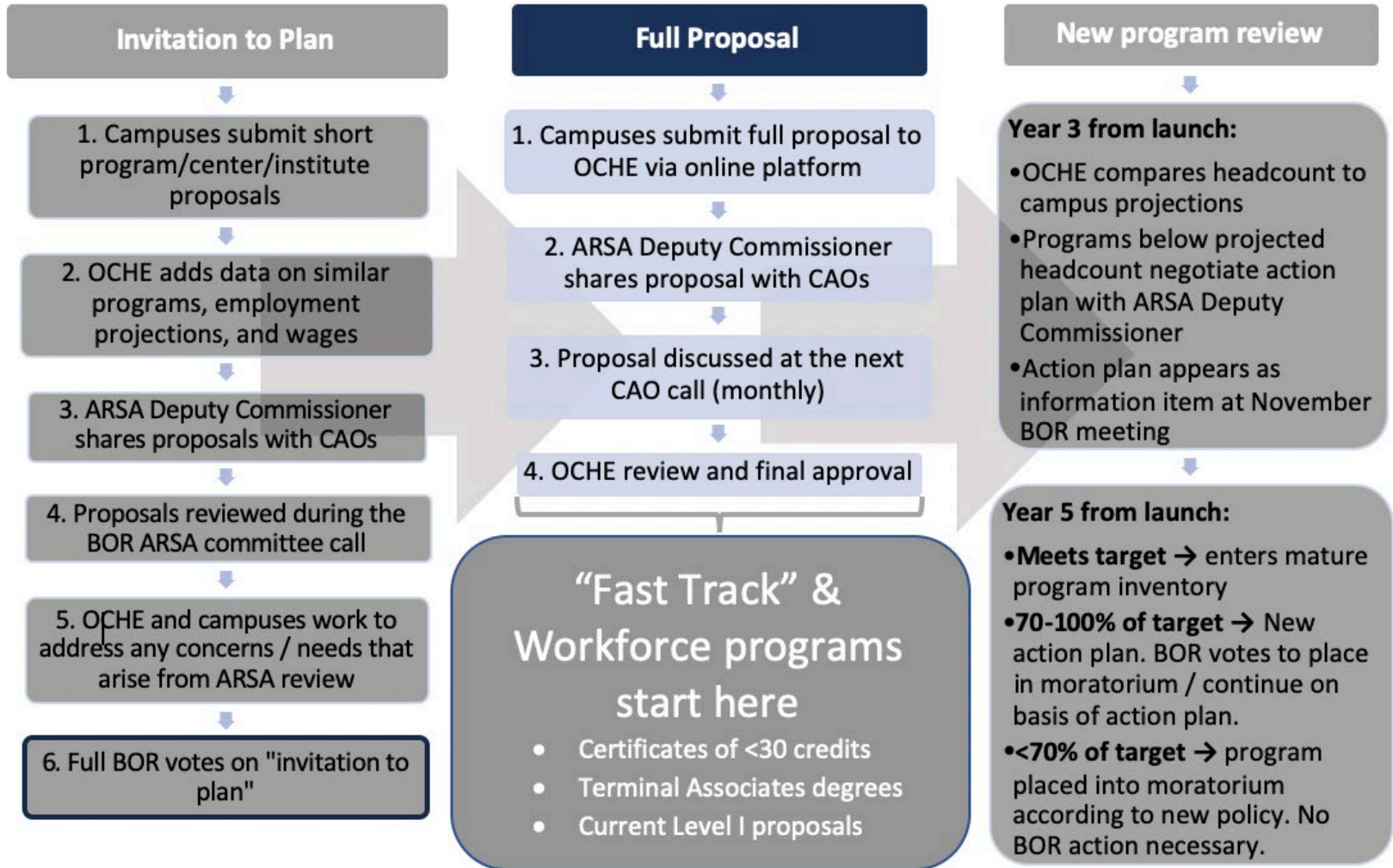


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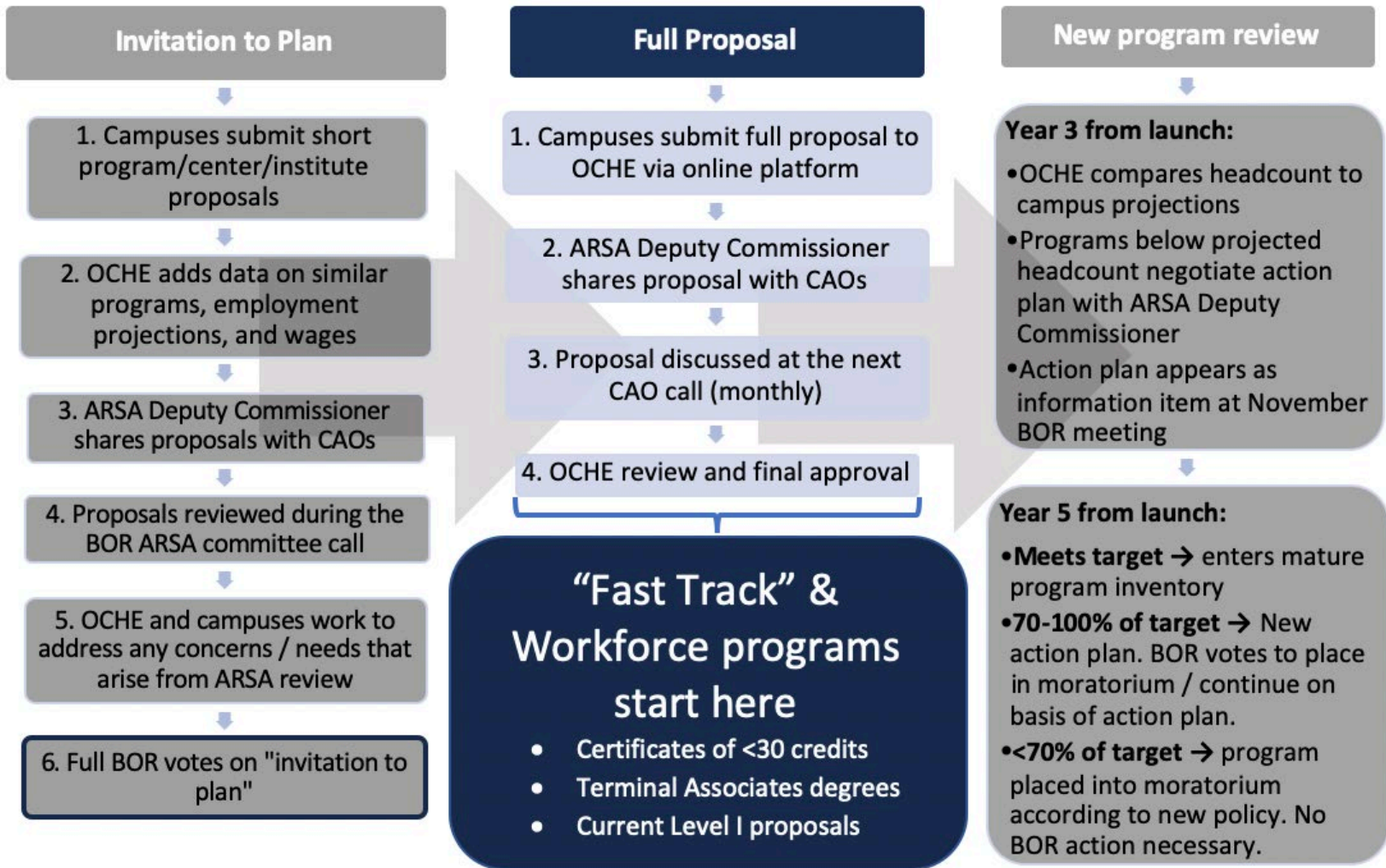


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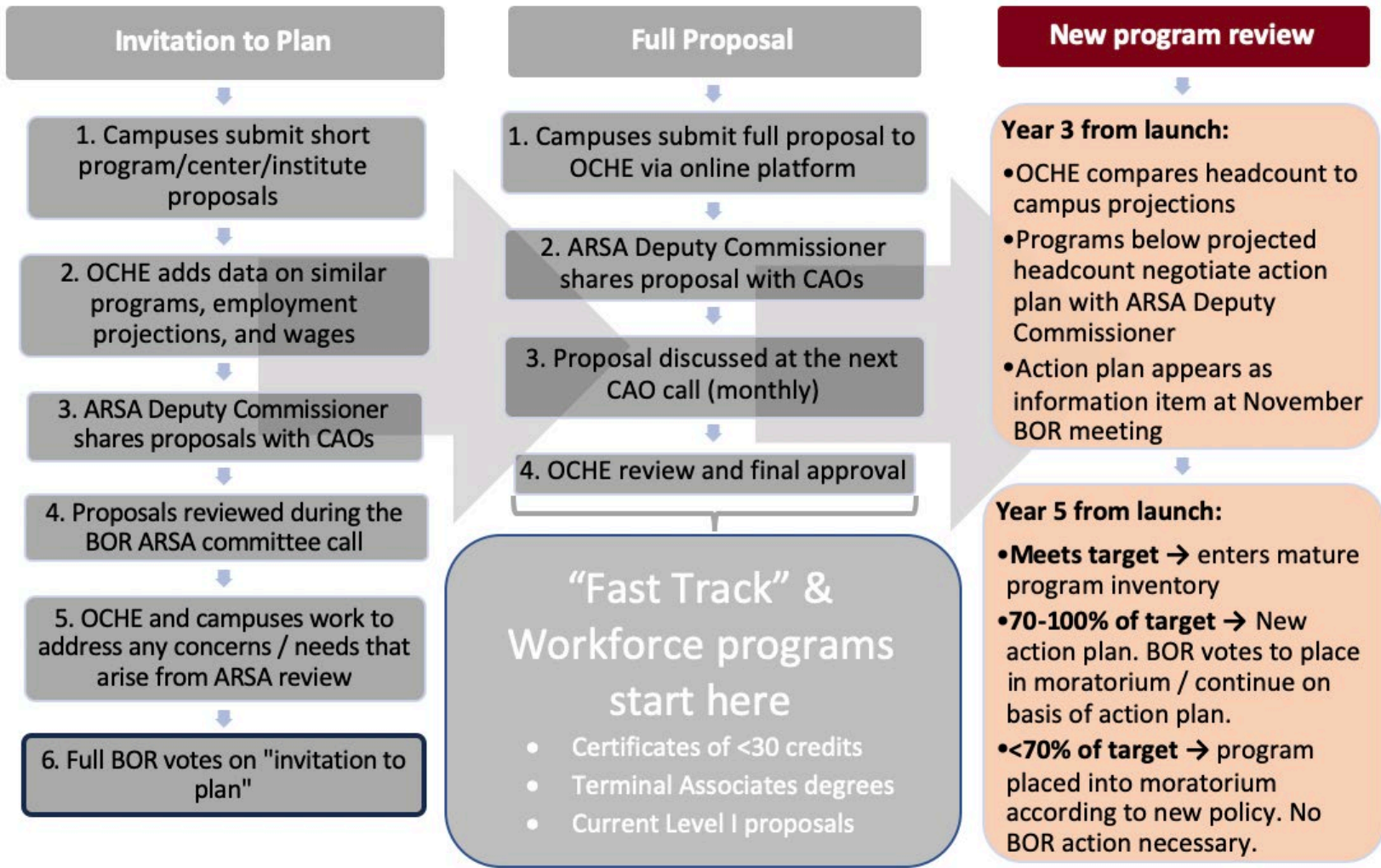


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Invitation to Plan

1. Campuses submit short program/center/institute proposals

2. OCHE adds data on similar programs, employment projections, and wages

3. ARSA Deputy Commissioner shares proposals with CAOs

4. Proposals reviewed during the BOR ARSA committee call

5. OCHE and campuses work to address any concerns / needs that arise from ARSA review

6. Full BOR votes on "invitation to plan"

Full Proposal

1. Campuses submit full proposal to OCHE via online platform

2. ARSA Deputy Commissioner shares proposal with CAOs

3. Proposal discussed at the next CAO call (monthly)

4. OCHE review and final approval

"Fast Track" & Workforce programs start here

- Certificates of <30 credits
- Terminal Associates degrees
- Current Level I proposals

New program review

Year 3 from launch:

- OCHE compares headcount to campus projections
- Programs below projected headcount negotiate action plan with ARSA Deputy Commissioner
- Action plan appears as information item at November BOR meeting

Year 5 from launch:

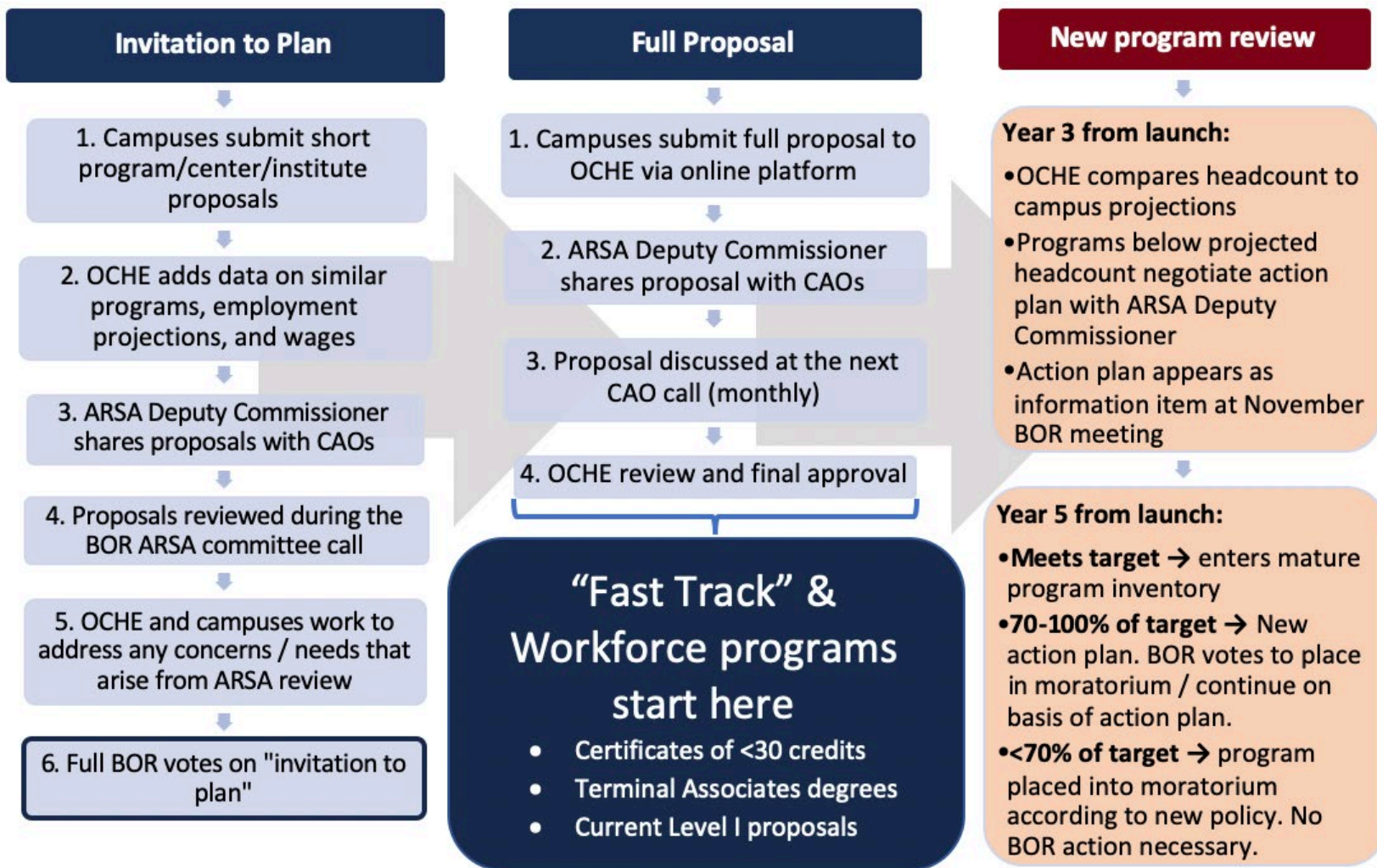
- **Meets target** → enters mature program inventory
- **70-100% of target** → New action plan. BOR votes to place in moratorium / continue on basis of action plan.
- **<70% of target** → program placed into moratorium according to new policy. No BOR action necessary.

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Key Points of Change

1. Fast Track option for all “terminal” associate’s degrees (e.g. AAS), certificates, and other select programs that meet urgent workforce & economic development needs.
2. Board of Regents acts earlier in process, through a formal “invitation to plan.”
3. Review of recently launched programs, based on projected and actual headcount, takes place after 3 and 5 years.
4. **COMING SPRING 2020** – Online portal to speed submission and review



Timeline

- November 22, 2019:** Concept and policies reviewed and approved by BOR
- November – January:** CAO working group reviews / amends required forms and develops concepts and procedures for online submission portal.
- January 13-14, 2020** Revisions to academic affairs handbook presented to BOR as information item.
- February 5, 2020** First ‘invitation to plan’ proposals due to OCHE for March BOR
- February 19, 2020** ‘Invitation to plan’ items reviewed at March CAO BOR call
- February 24, 2020** March ARSA committee call
- March 5-6, 2020** March BOR Meeting



Amending BOR Policy 301.1

F. When considering program proposals, the commissioner and board may consider, among other criteria, whether:

- i. The proposed program aligns with the MUS strategic plan, the campus mission, and the campus mission parameters as defined in BOR Policy 219.1.
- ii. The proposed program demonstrates convincing evidence of student demand, employer demand, or societal need.
- iii. The proposed program avoids unnecessarily duplication and cannot be delivered more efficiently through collaboration or alternative arrangements.
- iv. The projected benefits to the state outweigh the costs of the proposed program.
- v. The institution has the capacity to deliver the proposed program to an acceptable degree of quality with existing and projected resources.