

CAS Reorganization Initial Proposal

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Dear Colleagues,

I appreciate your patience as I worked through my discernment process on the reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and how that might impact the Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology. Today, I am ready to announce my initial proposal for the future of both colleges.

While many of the details and the process I went through are in the [attached document](#), my initial proposal outlines a reorganized College of Arts and Sciences and a newly created School of Science and Engineering. Based on the feedback I heard from the 28 one-hour listening sessions that ran from Nov. 2020-Jan. 2021, I believe that this initial proposal addresses many of the issues that were raised throughout the original process started by previous Interim Provost Chet Gillis.

As you will see in the [attached document](#), I purposely left many of the details vague or completely out of the document, since future decisions on faculty councils/assemblies, workload policies, promotion and tenure guidelines, and the like are to be decided by the faculty in the proposed colleges/schools. The [attached document](#) is an initial proposal, and it is meant to be the start of a conversation and the process to reorganize the colleges, so please treat it as such.

I realize that these changes will also impact staff in the current CAS and Parks, and I want to assure staff that I will include them in the community feedback I have planned for the fall semester. In addition, it is important for me to state that this proposed academic reorganization is rooted in educational and enrollment considerations; reductions in staff, or faculty, are not the intent of this reorganization.

In the document, I provide a timeline for alternative proposals (end of Oct. 2021), the review of those alternatives (Nov. 2021), and the timeframe for a final decision (Dec. 1, 2021). After December, we will start working through the process to operationalize the final decision, with the new college and school in place starting in the 2022-2023 academic year.

I look forward to hearing your feedback on the attached document, and receiving alternative proposals from the faculty community for consideration. Thank you again for your patience, and I'm excited about our path forward.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost