

Update on CAS Reorg Decision and Timeline

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Colleagues,

I am proud of our fidelity to the *Faculty Manual* throughout our Academic Portfolio Review (APR) process; we are embodying our commitment to shared governance. I concede, however, that our extended APR work – not to mention our continuous COVID-related planning – has precluded my finalizing a decision on the reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). As a consequence, I will not be able to meet my self-imposed deadline to announce a decision this month.

After I had received the multiple reorganization options offered by the CAS Reorganization Task Force in October 2020, I participated in nearly 30 listening sessions with all potentially impacted academic units. The diversity of faculty opinions on those Task Force options clarified one thing for certain: there is no consensus on the best structure. That has complicated my discernment process.

The good news is that my preferred path forward is taking shape. I expect to share my decision in mid-June. In accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Faculty Manual*, that announcement will be followed by an extensive period of University response and discussion (town hall meetings, a feedback survey, etc.). Based on the current timeline, I anticipate setting a deadline of mid-October for the submission of any faculty-developed alternative proposals to the plan I share in June.

By December 1st, I plan to share the final reorganization plan with the University community. That will provide ample time for the plan to be implemented fully by the start of the Fall 2022 term.

Our governance processes are intentionally inclusive and deliberate, helping us hold each other accountable in our various governance roles. For that I am grateful – even when our work takes longer than planned. If you have questions about this process or timeline, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost