

Updates on Portfolio Review and Arts and Sciences Reorganization

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Dear Colleagues,

I want to provide an update on the status of Academic Portfolio Review and the proposed reorganization plans for the College of Arts and Sciences. Please read on for more information.

Academic Portfolio Review

The portfolio review process has taken longer than I anticipated, mostly due to the volume of programs identified by the Academic Portfolio Review Committee (APRC).

At the end of their process, the APRC recommended 51 programs for closure; this included certificate, minor, bachelors, masters, and doctoral programs. My own review process will involve consultation with many individuals and groups as contemplated by the provisions of *The Faculty Manual* that deal with reallocation and reorganization.

In each case, I am carefully considering whether to take action and close the APRC-identified program, and if so, to understand whether closing the program would constitute reallocation or reorganization. As I have noted numerous times, I anticipate the large majority of the program closures will fall under the reorganization provisions of *The Faculty Manual*. The reallocation provisions will apply to the others.

The shared governance and consultative process is underway. I have already met with individual deans and department chairs to better understand the structure, resources, and impact of closing programs identified by the APRC. Within the next two weeks, I will meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) to review the list of programs and share reasons for my proposed action and the supporting evidence for each identified program.

After meeting with the FSEC, I will let the community know which programs will be closed. In addition, I will meet with faculty members from each affected program, at which point they will be informed as to how reallocation or reorganization will apply in their department.

If program closure constitutes reallocation, then the additional steps outlined in *The Faculty Manual* will be followed, which include the opportunity for the FSEC, the Dean, and the Faculty Assembly of the affected faculty to present alternative proposals to the Board of Trustees.

If program closure constitutes reorganization, then the deans, chairs and faculty in the impacted college will have the opportunity to present alternative proposals to me. Much of this process was outlined in [my presentation to the Faculty Senate](#) on Dec 8, 2020 (see slides 6-9; the timeline will now change, but the process is the same).

Although *The Faculty Manual* provides significant detail as to the steps needed to complete reallocation or reorganization, one group not specifically discussed is our affected students.

I am working with the FSEC on an appropriate plan to inform students in impacted programs, so they understand fully that their programs will be taught out. However, no new students will be enrolled going forward. These student-centered steps are critical to the process, and we need to ensure that students are informed and cared for during this transition. I anticipate working on the program closures process through early April.

After meeting with the FSEC, and discussing the rationale for the program closures, we will publish a website identifying which programs I propose to close. Any questions related to these decisions can be directed to my office or to the dean of the respective college/school.

College of Arts and Science Reorganization

Given the amount of work it has taken for portfolio review, I am still considering alternatives for my final proposal regarding the CAS reorganization. There are myriad factors at play here, and I want to ensure my staff and I are dedicating the appropriate amount of time to drafting my final proposal. I expect to have an update to the community in early-to-mid April.

Thank you for all the work you are continuing to do to serve our students and our community on a daily basis. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions regarding these topics.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost