



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Office of Academic Affairs

Office of Academic Affairs

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September 16, 2021

Dear 2-13 Committee Chairs,

I appreciate the interim reports that you provided. They are informative, thoughtful, and very helpful in informing the process, possible outcomes, and alternative solutions. In combination with feedback coming in from internal and external stakeholders, your interim reports have helped to solidify some elements of our preliminary plan while identifying other areas that need further review and/or revision. Earlier today I reported on our progress to the Board of Trustees. Below is a high-level summary and updates to keep everybody informed of where we are in the process.

I. New college structures and names

Deans have convened internal committees to review and make recommendations on new college names.

II. New College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

A. Family and Consumer Sciences

The committee appears to be focusing thus far on “unintended consequences” and sees little benefit to the proposed reduction and reorganization. We will consider the committee’s concerns but expect the reorganization recommendations to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November.

B. Life Sciences

The consolidation of A&S Departments of Zoology & Physiology, Botany, and Life Science with CANR departments of Animal Science, Ecosystem Science & Management, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Plant Sciences, and Veterinary Sciences into new academic departments is still being reviewed. We expect the transition to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November.

III. College of Business

A. Agricultural Economics and Economics

The committee has been engaged in seeking solutions for the proposed consolidation. Preliminary feedback from stakeholders and the 2-13 review committee have provided a compelling rationale for removing the recommendation to consolidate Agricultural Economics and Economics from the proposed restructuring plan.

IV. College of Education

A. School of Counseling, Leadership, Advocacy and Design (CLAD)

Two approaches for restructuring the College of Education (not described in the interim report) are being considered by the committee. Town halls and surveys are being used to solicit input. The committee is considering options that address the needs of the state and K-12 education systems currently being met by CLAD.

B. Early Childhood Education

We expect the transfer of ECE to the College of Education to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November.

V. New College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

A. Chemical Engineering and Chemistry

Preliminary feedback from stakeholders and the 2-13 review committee have provided a compelling rationale to modify the original recommendation from discontinuance of Chemical Engineering to a reorganization of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry, with the final department structure in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. The reorganization review will proceed with Chemical Engineering and Chemistry being on equal terms. The required budget reduction will be managed by the dean using college-wide resources.

B. Petroleum Engineering and Geology & Geophysics

Preliminary feedback from stakeholders and the review committee have provided a compelling rationale to modify our original recommendation from reduction of Geology & Geophysics to a reorganization of the two departments, with the final department structure in the Engineering and Physical Sciences. The reorganization review will proceed with the following changes and recommendations to the 2-13 committee: (a) The disproportionate budget reduction proposed for Geology & Geophysics will be no longer be imposed on the department. The budget cuts will be absorbed by the new college and managed by the dean using college-wide resources; (b) In addition to the possible consolidation with Petroleum Engineering, the committee will be asked to consider other organizational structures, including maintaining Petroleum Engineering and Geology & Geophysics as separate departments within the new College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

C. Computer Science and Electrical & Computer Engineering

Preliminary feedback from stakeholders and the review committee have provided a compelling rationale to modify the original recommendation for discontinuance of Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering to only a reorganization of the two departments into a new department. The interim report indicates the committee has identified opportunities for improved and more efficient degree programs, as well as research synergisms. The 2-13 committee will be asked to proceed with consolidation plans to emphasize on need for revised curricula to address

computing and technology innovations. The required budget reduction will be managed by the dean using college-wide resources.

D. Physics/Astronomy and Atmospheric Sciences

The interim report indicates that “Both departments are enthusiastic about the merger...” but are concerned about important details of implementation. We expect the consolidation to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November.

E. Math & Statistics

We expect the move to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November.

VI. College of Health Sciences: Nutrition

A. Kinesiology & Health/Nutrition

The committee seems to be positively engaged with the proposal to move the FCS Nutrition program in Kinesiology & Health in the College of Health Sciences. As with Ag Econ, questions have been raised regarding how Extension funds would transfer with faculty. We expect the transition to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November but are considering ways to continue collaborations with the new College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to advance the University’s Outreach and Extension missions associated with Nutrition.

VII. New College of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

A. Visual and Performing Arts

While we expect the committee to submit a consolidation plan, we note that the committee has identified several concerns about the proposed consolidation of department, including accreditation concerns and non-overlapping curricula. We will consider those concerns carefully before making a final recommendation.

B. English and Creative Writing

The committee has identified two possible options and seems to be leaning toward a consolidation that would include a new PhD program.

C. School of Culture, Gender and Social Justice (SCGSJ)/American Studies

We expect the reorganization to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November.

D. Philosophy & Religious Studies

We expect the reduction to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November.

E. Communications & Journalism (COJO)/AG Communications

We expect the move to be included in the final recommendation to the Board in November, but are considering options that could allow AG Communications students to identify with and be advised in the new College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

VIII. Discontinuation of Degree Programs

Department Heads in the affect units are currently reviewing data on degree programs and submitting reports to the Office of Academic Affairs. In addition, listening sessions are being scheduled for departments that request them. Feedback from the listening sessions and the department reports will be provided to Faculty Senate's Graduate Council and Academic Planning Committee, as appropriate. They will provide a review of the information to Faculty Senate at their meeting on Sept. 27. In accordance with UW Regulation 2-13, III, department heads will prepare teach-out plans for relevant programs that will be used if their degree program is discontinued.

Additional Information

Timeline

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| October 01, 2021 | Final UW 2-13 Committee reports submitted to Provost |
| November 01, 2021 | Final plan submitted to President |
| November 17-19, 2021 | Final plan presented to the Board of Trustees |

Preparing for Faculty and Staff Vacancies

The Offices of Academic Affairs and Human Resources have begun work sessions to assist department heads, deans, and college business managers in preparing for new organizations and possible impacts on faculty and staff positions. They will be discussing a set of guiding principles for filling vacant positions and examining the university's current hiring practices to determine how the hiring process can be expedited for impacted employees who may qualify for an open and funded position.

Kevin Carman
Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs

Cc: President, Faculty Senate Chair, Staff Senate Chair, ASUW President, Deans, Vice Presidents, Vice Provosts