



**A&S Strategic Planning Committee**  
**05-12-2022**

# Charge to A&S Strategic Planning Committee

- Enhance governance and improve engagement/morale
- Promote interdisciplinarity- reduce barriers
- Promote research clusters
- Enrollment challenges and the 2025 cliff
- **Intense budgetary challenges/adapting to the new budgetary model**
- Faculty development and student success

# History of Divisional structure within A&S

- The dissolution of the three divisional offices (arts, natural sciences, social sciences) came not long after President Swain's arrival in 1981 (budget issues?)
- Directed by an elected divisional chair and staffed by one other person, each with a small budget. The chairs could call meetings of the divisional faculty and represent the departments in various college bodies, but most of the office's work was clerical

# History of Divisional structure within A&S- Functions. Mostly clerical.

- 1) to monitor scheduling and personnel assignments in the constituent departments, mostly to avoid clashes between general-ed classes that were also common requirements in the division's departments
- (2) to schedule and staff what would later be called “interdisciplinary” courses—often “nature of” courses that were supposed to illuminate the intellectual and methodological affinities among disciplines within the division (and thus to distinguish the divisions from each other) and “history of” courses; and, although rarely,
- (3) to house faculty with the breadth of vision and experience and teach such courses

# History of Divisional structure within A&S- Functions. Mostly clerical.

- The Humanities divisional program was truly interdisciplinary, which explains that office's survival. The program represented disciplines (like religious studies or comparative literature) that weren't big enough to survive on their own. Humanities was demoted to a department without the pretended supervisory functions of the old offices.

# History of Divisional structure within A&S- Functions. Mostly clerical.

The Natural Sciences and Social Sciences offices simply disappeared (and their small personnel and operational budgets recaptured) EXCEPT that NatS did have one tenured faculty member; there may have been others as well. As I recall, at least one tenured person was let go by means of the “program closure” allowance for dismissal of tenured faculty, and his departure caused a huge outcry at the time.

How the divisional breakdown is related to the occasional efforts of the Natural Sciences division to leave the college altogether, either to be constituted as a college of their own or to join with Speed School, I cannot recall. Social Sciences and Humanities, which didn't generally have the research income of the natural sciences, nevertheless managed to fight off these attempts.

# Themes from meetings

- a) Protect smaller departments
- b) Division head duties
- c) Budget model and issues
- d) How div. model solves college's problems
- e) Engagement with other A&S members
- f) Review peer institutions with div. models
- g) Need to set a vision
- h) Assess and define interdisciplinarity

- *Strengthen dual credit \**
- *Priority on retention efforts \**
- *Recruiting first-gen students\**

*\* These are topics that other groups are addressing at university-wide level*

# Activity

- Think about which theme feels most urgent to you.
- On your phone or laptop, go to **menti.com** and type in the code **37983501**
- Select the theme that feels most urgent to you.

# Where do we go from here?

- Based on the group poll, which topic do we need to spend more time tackling?
- How should we tackle it?
- Do we need more information?



# Next meeting

- Potential agenda items