

Provost's A&S Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

10.20.22 Meeting Notes

- A. The provost gave a recap of the last few meetings with an emphasis on reminding committee members that the majority voted back in August to focus its work moving forward around how to strengthen the college's divisional model as currently outlined in the college's by-laws.
- B. One committee member expressed that they have lost confidence in a divisional model. They do not see it as clearly answering the problems that were stated originally when the committee was charged.
- C. Another committee member expressed disappointment that the group continues to disagree about the purpose of the committee and the purpose of meetings.
- D. Another committee member questioned why design thinking is not being applied to the committee's work. The provost responded that there should first be an agreed upon prototype when conducting design thinking. He continued, saying design thinking needs to be in response to something specific.
- E. A committee member shared that he was surprised and disappointed by the Budget Subcommittee's suggestions last week.
- F. A committee member shared her view that it is important for the model to consider a central way to facilitate interdisciplinary work for the college and perhaps the university should take that role on as well.
- G. The provost suggested that the group come back together next week and take a vote on what the next steps of the committee should be when more committee members were in attendance. He then prompted the Governance Subcommittee to share the report-out they prepared for the meeting.
- H. The Governance Subcommittee presented a Dean's Council proposal (see attachment). In this structure, each division would have its own bylaws. The Dean's Council would ensure the divisions still come together to discuss things that affect the whole so that no one division becomes too autonomous and goes rogue. It acts as a checks-and-balances measure for the college to utilize when a division is considering an action that could potentially harm the rest of the college.
- I. The subcommittee asserted that the Dean's Council would not replace the role of Department Chairs, Associate/Assistant Deans, or the Faculty Assembly. The Dean's Council will be the group that works out potential issues with interdisciplinarity.
- J. The provost said the college is currently acting in a way where there is 20+ different "tribes" who are each vying for things from the dean and that creates 40+ direct reports to the dean. Moving to divisional deans would reduce it to three "tribes" or perhaps four or five if that were the decision.
- K. By the next meeting, the Governance Subcommittee will work through the questions that were posed at the meeting. At the next meeting, the provost plans to summarize the three reports he has heard, have a discussion, and see what the subcommittees decide on as the next steps for the committee.