

## Provost's A&S Strategic Planning Committee

### 10.27.22 Meeting Notes

- A. The provost summarized the past subcommittee reports.
- B. A member of the DEI & Belonging Subcommittee asserted that they are not trying to propose an entirely different model but wanted to be given the freedom to explore other models when it comes up. This member apologized that the Grand Challenges document from last week was presented as proposing an incompatible model.
- C. A committee member applauded the subcommittee for exploring the Grand Challenges model but asked if the subcommittee could also continue its assigned work of determining the pros and cons of a divisional model through a DEI lens.
- D. A committee member said that the A&S bylaws do not specifically name the divisions into which the College is to be divided.
- E. The same member indicated that faculty are concerned that separating into divisions seems to be in direct conflict with the priority for interdisciplinarity.
- F. The committee discussed the Grand Challenges.
- G. A committee member said there must be fiscal motivation behind interdisciplinarity and currently the college doesn't have that incentive.
- H. A committee member expressed that all the disciplines feel overburdened with teaching and service obligations, and they're not left with any time to do the research they would like to be doing or the innovative projects they would like to pursue.
- I. A committee member expressed that those in the natural sciences are trying to compete with regional schools in the ACC.
- J. A committee member said she rejects the notion that divisions would encourage silos. In the college's current budget structure, there's no incentive to work cross-discipline and people are working in silos even now.
- K. A Budget Subcommittee member announced that fiscal officers met recently for the university's 2024 fiscal cycle. That process begins at the end of January 2023, and every college will be asked to submit their revenue projections based on what they think their tuition revenue will be.
- L. A committee member suggested that the DEI & Belonging subcommittee be allowed to continue their explorations around the Grand Challenges model to see where it might enhance or where it might offer alterations to the divisional model. The provost and committee generally agreed.
- M. The committee discussed what the Dean's Council structure would look like. The Governance Subcommittee agreed to spend the next week looking more into what the specific powers of the dean would be in relation to a Dean's Council.
- N. The committee discussed how the divisional model would maintain central services for things like advising and admissions for all the divisions of the college.
- O. In response to a question about why RIF was not included in the Budget Subcommittee's model, the Budget Subcommittee shared that department RIF is relatively small. For the college, \$3.9 million in grant expenditures would generate a maximum of \$390k RIF for all departments. That money in Natural Sciences does not support things like travel, but rather start-up, retention, equipment upkeep and repair. The PIs spend their RIFs on printing, computer equipment, and any other supplies or equipment that can't be expensed to the grant.

- P. A committee member asked how to effectively lower teaching loads and increase research activity. The university budget model is based on credit hours, so how does the growth of credit hours happen when trying to grow research? The committee had a discussion on this topic.
- Q. A committee member expressed that the workplans for faculty in the natural sciences outline their instruction efforts at about 40%.
- R. The provost shared about his experience as dean: it is part of the dean's job to understand the activity of their college very intimately. He suggested that the divisional dean would then also have to make decisions around who does what teaching loads based on how grant-active different faculty are.
- S. A committee member asked that the divisions should make sure they develop a clear mission statement and priorities.
- T. The provost asked that the group meet again next week and use the questions that were posed to them today as their subcommittee agenda for this coming week on the items they need to report back on next week.