

Provost's A&S Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 4.14.22

Meeting Notes

- A. Provost told committee members that all ideas and solutions are welcome. He encouraged members to look at models of other A&S schools and to contact their peers at those institutions.
- B. A committee member encouraged the committee to consider the model that University of Colorado Boulder did. The provost suggested that a visit could be organized to that institution if members would find that valuable.
- C. A committee member expressed concern that subjects like ethics are in everything and warned against philosophy being pinned just to a humanities division.
- D. A committee member shared idea for incentivizing interdisciplinarity via MOAs that outline all expectations.
- E. Committee members discussed value of interdisciplinarity at the undergraduate level vs. the graduate level, issues with getting departments to come to agreement on various things including how to evaluate a single faculty member, and the college's significant decrease in credit hours.
- F. A committee member cautioned that the college has only had 2 years with the new budget model and those two years were in COVID years. They urged the committee to not assume what is currently being done is failing and keep in mind that the college has had a few massive changes in the environment and enough time hasn't passed to determine if it's truly a failure or not. They suggested that a concerted effort be made to monopolize dual credit and ways to get current students to stay.
- G. A committee member shared that the chair of philosophy at Arizona State University liked their college's reorg where they created different schools.
- H. Committee members discussed dual enrollment, earned credit hours, the new budget model, and the issues around tracking changes in students' majors.
- I. Committee member expressed that with all the shifts in degree requirements and the higher education landscape, it's surprising that A&S hasn't lost even more students especially given how society no longer highly values the humanities. Another committee member interjected that many humanities graduates have good jobs and report satisfaction, and studies/reports can be retrieved that reflect that data.
- J. A committee member stated that the college needs to think of ways to outsmart the tsunami of forces that are working against the college. There is urgency for creative solutions.
- K. Committee returned to the topic of dual enrollment and discussed the level of value it brings to the college and the resources that should and shouldn't be dedicated to bolstering the dual enrollment program.
- L. Committee briefly reviewed the Arizona State University College of Arts & Sciences divisional structure as demonstrated on the ASU website. The provost requested that committee members take time over the next week to look further into that structure and he requested the committee member with a connection to the philosophy chair at ASU to gather more information about how their divisional model has played out.