

Provost A&S Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 5.19.22

Meeting Notes

- A. David Schultz presented information on the history, demographics and divisional structures of the University of Nevada, Reno and similar information on the University of Colorado. Schultz noted that the Reno model has a dean for overseeing activity that is college wide and overseeing each divisional dean. ([See attached slides.](#))
- B. A committee member expressed that the natural sciences in A&S aren't worried about losing students and don't see a divisional model as an issue. They can understand, however, that the humanities and social sciences are worried that a new autonomous structure might in turn make them more vulnerable.
- C. A committee member suggested that the humanities should utilize their flexibility and rethink ways of presenting the critical thinking skills and values that come from the disciplines of humanities. That committee member noted that it's important for humanities to not hunker down and keep doing the same thing in the face of needed change.
- D. A committee member expressed their continued concern for the way credit hours are credited back to a department in A&S.
- E. Schultz's presentation ended with a proposed divisional model for A&S. His proposal suggests hiring to an area/division -- not hiring to a department—and the department chairs would interact with the division dean.
- F. Committee members discussed various advantages, concerns and questions regarding the proposed structure for A&S ([see last slide of attachment](#)). Some committee members do not see how divisions will enhance interdisciplinarity and collaboration. Other committee members believe the divisional model's potential for better budget control and clarity could improve issues.
- G. A committee member expressed concern about natural sciences being their own division because they have a poor reputation for hiring BIPOC faculty members. Another committee member asserted the candidate pool limitations they've run into the past and the current ways they're trying to more intentionally recruit minority candidates. The provost added that all colleges need to address how to increase minority faculty recruitment – not just the natural sciences in A&S.
- H. A committee member expressed concern that the proposed divisional model creates a new layer of administration and already constrained funding will have to be used to pay for those administrative salaries.
- I. Committee members discussed more questions they had about the information Schultz presented. Members were asked to note all of their outstanding questions and submit them to ex officio member Sarah Lopez who will ensure Schultz and the provost receive them. Schultz and the provost will try to get in contact with the Reno provost. Schultz will respond to questions at the next meeting.
- J. Bob Goldstein, vice provost of academic planning and accountability, was a guest speaker to the committee and presented information on the impact of Cardinal Core per academic unit. The report covered 4 years before Cardinal Core and 4 years afterward to see what changes happened in Gen Ed. The report ([see attached](#)) showed that for A&S the pre-Cardinal Core 4-year average percent contribution was 86.7% and the post-Cardinal Core 4-year average percent

contribution was 86.1 percent. Goldstein highlighted to the committee that Cardinal Core has had no significant impact on credit hours in the college.

- K. Goldstein confirmed that “Gen ed” on this spreadsheet is defined as any undergraduate course at the 100-400 level and if it was labeled as “Gen Ed” in the system. In response to a committee member’s request, Goldstein will run a report on 500 level courses generated by undergraduate courses and follow up with the committee.
- L. A committee member is concerned that the university’s strategic plan will prioritize new programs in a specific area that would preclude the creation of other programs that would be good for the college. The provost asserted that the university strategic plan doesn’t specify new program types and that as long as there’s a proforma for new programs that show how it is predicted to do well, his office has been and will continue to approve new programs.