

September 8, 2010

To: The Task Force to Evaluate College Restructuring

From: Lavelle Hendricks and Donna Dunbar-Odom, Task Force Co-Chairs

Subject: Proposal

The problem:

- Given the increased importance of scholarship and its evaluation across the disciplines, it is vital that a dean be in a position have clear understanding of the ways knowledge is produced in the fields under his/her purview.
- Given the administrative thorniness of administering a college as diverse as Arts and Sciences, it makes sense to reorganize along more coherent disciplinary divisions.
- Given the pursuit of a Nursing Program, it makes sense to make academic and administrative space for its development and growth.

Therefore, it is proposed that the following administrative changes be considered.

The College of Arts and Sciences be roughly divided into two new colleges:

The College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts

Art

History

Literature and Languages

Mass Media, Communication, and Theatre

Music

Political Science

Sociology and Criminal Justice

The College of Science and Engineering

Agricultural Sciences

Biological and Environmental Sciences

Chemistry

Computer Science and Information systems

Mathematics

Physics

Industrial Engineering and Technology

Nursing will be housed in the College of Education until it becomes a separate college.

Currently, the College of Arts and Sciences has functioned with a dean and two associate/assistant deans. Under this reconfiguration, each college will have one dean and one associate dean, requiring the hiring of only one additional dean.

Under this system of organization, faculty members will likely serve under a dean with a better understanding of how knowledge is made and scholarship and creative activity are measured within their fields. Each dean will be better able to educate her/himself about the forms of teaching and scholarly excellence within that college.