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Whether to consolidate Arts and Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, and Science and Mathematics into an Arts and Sciences College

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Senate Executive Committee Discussion Item Request

Title: Whether to consolidate Arts and Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, and Science and Mathematics into an Arts and Sciences College

Submitted by: Robert Pirro

Date:10/19/2018

Subject of Discussion:

With consolidation finished, it is time for the faculty senate, with the university's top administrators, to discuss the wisdom of maintaining three college administrations (Arts and Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, and Science and Mathematics), when many institutions, both in the university system of Georgia and outside, make do with a unified Arts and Sciences College model.

Rationale:

College organization has far-reaching consequences for faculty research and teaching collaborations, student capacities to connect insights and conduct research across disciplinary borders, the coherence of the Core Curriculum as a meaningful part of undergraduate education, and the budget. During the consolidation process, several decisions were made under urgent time pressure about college organization (including the split of CLASS). The dust of consolidation has settled and we are entering a new and challenging environment which puts a premium on our ability to attract students. It is time to have a conversation about how and whether our current college organization positions us best in the current environment. The Faculty Senate is one appropriate forum for holding such a discussion.

Response

11/9/2018: The SEC appreciates the idea of re-examining our colleges' organization, but the SEC agreed that this item needs to provide more than a yea/nay starting point to discuss. This would benefit from a comparative study of new our peer and aspirant institutions. The SEC noted that while the concept of consolidation has been with us for some time, the practical existence of the new university has yet to complete a single semester. Before assuming that this change has been unsuccessful, the SEC felt that some data supporting the need for another change was necessary. For instance, how will that merger of three colleges (as submitted, not reconnecting CAH and CBSS) benefit faculty and students specifically? What costs did we accrue by splitting the colleges? What would a new Dean's search cost against that? Has any effort been made to test the general opinion of the entire faculty (since this would have an impact on other colleges as well)? etc... The SEC agreed that if this information isn't generated from the faculty end, it does not provide an avenue for an informed and productive discussion. The SEC recommends collecting that data, and then resubmitting this item for an upcoming meeting.