

SCHOOL OF MUSIC SENATOR'S CONCENSUS RESPONSE TO PPC WHITE PAPER

For many years our school was an independent unit with a dean and representation on important committees like the Graduate Council. Since being absorbed into the College of Fine Arts and Communication, we lost our former School of Music dean position and some automatic, direct committee representations, significantly diminishing our profile and prestige in the university. Having said this, I want to acknowledge that our school has benefitted from membership in our current college through very real and highly appreciated support from our interim college Dean and from the Provost. There are also current budgetary constraints that necessitate considering possible savings through some forms of consolidation. This is the context and history with which we consider the PPC White Paper proposals for consolidation.

Proposals outlined by the PPC White Paper Draft that directly impact the School of Music envision the possibility of: 1) continuing with a College of Fine Arts and Communication (CFAC) with current component school directors to serve as rotating deans of the college, or 2) creating a College of Humanities by folding English, History, Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Philosophy into the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

While many of us would prefer to be an independent school with a dean, it is clear that for our school, continuation, as a member of a CFAC with visionary, supportive leadership, can be a catalyst for growth in many areas. It is absolutely clear to us however that combining humanities units with CFAC is untenable. There are many examples of departments of music that are contained in a humanities/Arts and Sciences structure. These music units are, however, service oriented, and categorically different than the professional school model that defines a school of music. The goals and structure of our type of professional school are significantly different than the departments in other colleges cited as similar and common to us by PPC. In fact, most professional schools comparable in scope to us are either independent or part of a College of Fine Arts.

A service department provides the general student with classes and performance opportunities in music as a means of broadening the student's general education. The professional school deepens the experience and knowledge of students in specific areas, in our case as teachers, therapists, performers, theorists, and composers - preparing them with skills so as to be competitive in a music profession. This requires specialist teachers as well as a director who understands the very complex nature of a professional school.

An administrative structure charged with managing and serving both humanities departments and professional schools could seriously impair the efficient and effective execution of both types of disciplines. It would be a significant step backward for the School of Music if we were combined with other humanities units, or if we were folded into the College of Arts and Sciences.

It is also important to note that our desire not to add additional units to the CFAC in no way implies a negative view of the value or quality of any of the humanities disciplines.

Following careful consideration of the options for reorganization in the PPC, the Department of Chemistry supports only the options in which the College of Arts and Sciences remains intact. We believe the other options will result in an overall weakening of strong programs without significant cost savings, and in some cases, will require a considerable increase in funding.

Removing any of the humanities departments from Arts and Sciences will result in an overall weakening of those programs, as they lose the FTE's generated at the higher rate in the sciences. Those options (under C, department level) will relegate these programs to impoverishment in the long run, and considering the central role these departments play in teaching all our students critical reading and writing skills (and the global perspective provided by foreign languages among others), we cannot afford such an outcome.

The B level option of the STEM College is an unproven scheme not seen at our current or aspirational peer institutions. In fact, it seems to be a scenario observed only at less research intensive universities that likely had to cobble together disparate departments to survive. Because the PPC's goal is to strengthen units, colleges, and the university as a whole, this would be a backwards move. It is unfortunate that the PPC did not propose a college combining the natural and physical sciences, since that is a common successful scenario (so long as there is a continued commitment to the Humanities as discussed above). The proposed reorganization may or may not improve interdepartmental and college collaborative efforts more than other (less costly) alternatives like on-campus research symposia. It will, however, require an enormous infusion of resources (primarily as graduate assistantships) to expand the human capital necessary to be competitive for F and A bearing grants. Unless such support is made available, the weaker programs will, by necessity, either cannibalize the strong programs or slide into non-productivity.