

Art Department

1. **How do you think an academic re-org, like the ones in the graphic, would impact your department – both positively and negatively – in terms of the following enrollment-related topics? Please explain.**

We can only see that a reorganization would have a negative impact on enrollment-related topics such as graduation, recruitment and retention in that it would take resources away from direct student support. The money that is required to staff three additional colleges is substantial and would be better directed toward funding initiatives meant to support student engagement that will increase retention, toward supporting faculty with professional development that can support their students, providing additional scholarships and student employment that keep students on campus, etc. We have yet to hear any suggestions of how a restructure supports students. Some have argued that students don't identify with their college, and that smaller colleges would enhance student pride, but we only see that students identify with their department or program. Changing our college from LAS to Arts and Humanities will have no positive impact on student enrollments.

2. **How do you think an academic re-org, like the ones in the graphic, would impact your department – both positively and negatively – in terms of the following identity-related topics? Please explain.**

- a. Professional recognition

The reorg in the graphic would likely have very little impact, positive or negative, on our professional recognition. Those in the professions know us by our programs—Art, Communication Design, Art History, Art Education. The organization within a school or college has very little impact. There might be minimal increase in recognition from a School of the Arts or School of Arts and Design, but only if there were increased marketing and outreach from that School, and that would take increased resources.

- b. Department reputation/image

Very little difference based on the graphic. College of LAS versus College of Arts and Humanities would have no impact on our reputation.

- c. Department revenue

Reorganization to College of Arts and Humanities seems like it would remain neutral in terms of our revenue from tuition. Our biggest worry is that if we were to break into just a college of the arts, that there would not be the big departments to help subsidize our expensive programs. With the support of English, Modern Languages, CAS, we think we would be covered, but would need additional data.

In terms of fundraising potential, we are concerned that breaking into the College of Arts and Humanities would have negative impact on our revenue. Some faculty worry that what few fundraising, donor and "naming opportunities" there might be for LAS would be directed toward the sciences.

- d. Program accreditation

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No impact. The university is accredited, not just our departments or colleges. The only minimal positive impact that would come from a reorg would be to have Industrial Design in the same college as Art because we might communicate better during self-studies and accreditation visits. But really, this is not a problem. Our two departments work well together. Music and Theatre have similar accreditation, but our organizations are separate, and we never need to collaborate on accreditation.

3. How do you think an academic re-org, like the ones in the graphic, would impact your department in terms of the following internal university topics? Please explain.

We do not see any correlation between breaking into smaller units and opportunities to collaborate. There is nothing about our structure that inhibits collaboration, i.e. in the form of team teaching a course. What gets in the way of team teaching is really related to workload and pay. Other kinds of collaborations tend to happen department to department, faculty to faculty, through relationships. We currently have strong collaboration with Industrial Design, which is accomplished easily even though we are in separate colleges.

4. Are there current projects or projects in the planning stages that you feel would be disrupted by an academic re-org? Please explain.

None

5. Are there specific policies or procedures that your department uses that reference or use the current school/college structure? How would they be impacted by an academic re-org?

The Center for Visual Art is organized under the supervision of the Department of Art and receives generous supplemental budget from the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. This might be negatively impacted by a reorganization if a new Dean did not provide that support. The CVA works to partner with numerous departments at the university, and has had the most success with departments in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. The CVA has collaborated with the Departments of Chicana/o Studies, Africana Studies, Political Science, and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

6. Does your *department* currently engage in external fundraising? Do you think an academic re-org into smaller colleges (such as the 7 shown in the graphic) would impact fundraising for your department? How about for your college?

The Department of Art has a few donors for scholarships and a major planned gift. If we were to be reorganized into a College of Arts and Humanities, this would likely not be impacted. Current donors articulate a commitment to Visual Art and to careers in Art. The donors who have pledged the planned gift of a building view positively our college and university's support of the arts as demonstrated by the purchase of the building in the Santa Fe Arts District. They want to make sure that their building will be utilized in a way that supports the arts and culture in the future. Any kind of dismantling of support for the arts would be seen as a threat.

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None of us in the department of art know whether breaking into a 7 college model would enhance fundraising for our department. It would seem that fundraising for the arts and humanities or for College of Letters, Arts and Sciences depends on having the active advocacy of the Advancement office, Senior administration, and the Board of Trustees. We are concerned that if more colleges were created to address fundraising, the focus of fundraising would be on other colleges, and any College of Arts and Humanities would be low priority.

7. Using the graphic re-org as a point of discussion, how would your department feel about being in the 5-college version? In the 7-college version? Should MSU Denver continue down the path of collegiate restructuring, where do *you* think your department belongs?

The Department of Art rather vehemently opposes continuing down the path of collegiate restructuring. We do not believe this is a wise use of university resources and that any potential fundraising opportunity would be offset by loss of resources for the majority. We believe that a process can be created for departments or programs within departments to initiate movement, but that this does not warrant a wholesale restructure.

That said, since the School of HEaT is already approved and there is a donor, we are not opposed to its creation and we don't see it impacting us at all.

Regarding the 7-college version, in which the Department of Art is located within a College of Arts and Humanities, this may have little impact, positive or negative. In many ways, we do identify with many of the fields currently located within that proposed college, but at the same time we have strong filial bonds with other departments such as Industrial Design. There are some faculty who are opposed to a ghettoization of the arts and humanities, and they see a bond with the sciences because many students and faculty are inspired by science. Scientists and artists have many commonalities, for instance in terms of problem solving and experimenting, and working within studio or lab environments. Many of us in the department have cross-listed courses with GWS or with Chicana/o Studies, and we do not welcome being ideologically split from those fields. Additionally, when pressed, some faculty expressed that they would prefer to be in a College of STEAM, strengthening ties to Industrial Design and the Architecture minor within Engineering. This may have been a comment that was influenced by the perception that there is more financial support and fundraising capability for STEM, and that the Art Department should strategically identify with technology fields in order to benefit, but this really was not a thorough discussion that weighed the costs and benefits. As Chair, I would have strong concerns about making such a drastic move, but it is my responsibility to communicate what the faculty have said. I am also not convinced that the faculty in my department understand that the 7 college model had some data behind it that showed that CHP, and therefore the revenue from tuition, would be fairly balanced. Specific data showing the cost-benefit analysis of any restructure is sorely needed. To reiterate, as a body, the faculty and staff in the Department of Art do not support a reorganization and they generally view this proposal as lacking data or specifics in terms of either identifying problems or solutions.