

# Default Report

Realignment questions

November 16, 2018 11:00 AM MST

Q2 - By vote, should MSU Denver's academic departments in CLAS and CPS be realigned to better level the loads and best reflect and market our mission?

By vote, should MSU Denver's academic departments in CLAS and CPS be...

Yes

~~||||~~

The loads of what, exactly, and for whom? CLAS might well benefit from stronger administrative support so departments aren't left wondering, for instance, why there are so many curriculum logjams and rooming problems, but I don't know whether splitting into separate colleges is the way to achieve it. And in what way does adding to administrative bloat, one of the major drivers of the explosion in the cost of education, reflect or market our mission? You're asking me to vote based on a claim of some kind of vaguely-stated improvement that may not be entirely valid and may in fact involve unspoken and/or unforeseen negative implications.

That's a stupidly loaded question. This is so typical of the rhetorical bullying endemic in this institution. The Provost has got to go.

~~Yes~~

No.

~~||||~~ |

~~Probably not.~~

I think too many colleges doesn't make much sense. It seems like moving the deckchairs on the Titanic--change for change's sake. But maybe I'm wrong. I think spitting the sciences and the humanities up, for example, is probably based more on a desire among some to gain better salaries. I'm slightly against this idea. On the other hand, I do think that some departments might be looked at and rethought, including English. For example, perhaps the Literature, Creative Writing, and Cinema portions of English no longer belong with the First Year Writing portion? I'd suggest discussions like this take place (I'd see if Modern Languages might merge with the literature, film, and creative writing portions of English, for example). Or, perhaps Composition and Rhetoric and First Year Writing should become part of the First Year Success program (does that program survive at all?)

~~Yes~~

~~I don't~~ think it needs to be to level the the loads but to better align programs and outcomes.

~~Sure~~

~~No~~ I think the sciences might do well, but I truly worry about the arts, literatures, languages, and history.

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Q3 - If yes, what college would you want to be in, and which departments would you want to align with?

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College of Arts and Humanities

CLAS

If there were realignments, I'd want CATS to be with Modern Languages, History, Philosophy, etc. I think Women's Studies and Africana Studies and Chicano Studies also belong there, along with Political Science and Sociology. It seems like Linguistics and 2ndary Ed/English also would belong there, but I guess that depends on what they would want.

A college of arts and humanities and a department of English Arts (creative writing, literature, and film--as distinct from rhetoric, composition, and linguistics)

Depends...it's hard to think of English outside of the Humanities, but we do have linguistics, RCPW and even teacher ed that are more social sciency.

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing and Rhetoric Department.

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Q4 - If no, how would you use potential resources to "increase enrollment and retention while also supporting grant writing and development efforts."

If no, how would you use potential resources to "increase enrollment a...

We should be focusing on better basic support of the faculty. Don't ask me if I think we should pour millions into hiring new administrators when you're also telling me that the university can't afford an increase to my base salary. The faculty are the front line for meeting our mission, and this plan for realignment doesn't indicate any clear investment in the faculty. In comparison to other institutions, we are clearly overworked and underpaid, and I don't see how creating a new college structure is going to address that problem. In fact, I see instead the danger of even greater burdens placed on the faculty -- in the area of fundraising, for instance? A sink-or-swim mentality about the survival of newly ghettoized departments in their respective clusters? Put the money toward correcting faculty pay and teaching loads, and you will see less-stressed faculty better able to be successful as teachers and scholars. And that will translate into better experiences for the students and a more vibrant academic community where we can keep our students engaged and on track, and entice more to our university.

grant writing should be supported with release time or money as the need arises. Development efforts should be run out the appropriate office and should work with the structures that exist rather than changing the organization to suit some current funder who might have totally different interests needs or desires in a few years (by the time the re-org was actually implemented). Student retention would be increased by better supporting our Category II and Category II colleagues--especially by making more full time positions truly available to Category III faculty by allowing internal faculty searches (like there are for everything else) and having more full time lines in the areas where students are most impacted in their first year and in foundations skills--math, writing, and oral comm.

Better financial aid, better condition of classroom equipment, more career-oriented events, more information about mini-grants that would allow students to work with faculty members on various hands-on projects.

We should develop an MFA program in creative writing.

I think that it also allow for better interdisciplinary work when we are better aligned and in smaller groups. That can lend itself to making better programs for students.

I think a lot of current CLAS enrollment is in general studies as well as majors, so unless the University makes what I take to be an unlikely investment in gen ed, I think we have a non-starter here.

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## Q6 - What are potential opportunities you see in realignment? What are some concerns that you have?

What are potential opportunities you see in realignment? What are some con...

I always worry about a lack of funding for the humanities. I also think cognitive dissociations between "sciences" and "arts" are out-dated. I'm not sure how the potential separation relates to marketing issues. If there is more professional distinctions between areas, I'd also like to see more learning opportunities for students that foster connections. Here I am thinking of performance studies approaches to understanding patient care and user experiences for digital environments. I'm thinking of creative, DIY approaches to biology and ethics, such as those discussed on Robert Carlson's book, 'Biology is Technology.'

Just not seeing any big opportunities. See above for concerns.



It seems that the decisions have already been made and this "information gathering" is just a way to pretend that faculty actually have some voice. There are no opportunities if there is not true attention to what faculty want (50% only wanted minor change based on the CAESS report) and if things like the possibilities for new departments, merged departments, or split departments are stymied because there is no process by which to achieve these things. If student and faculty needs are truly centered in any discussion of reorganization there could be useful outcomes, but the question itself focuses on funders and administrative bodies (Deans for instance and if they are overworked) and not on faculty and students needs or desires.

Realignment as presented has certain merits, but the transition would mean more confusion with advising, more apparatus for more schools/colleges, more bureaucracy, and we already have enough.

I think that if Composition & Rhetoric and First Year Writing were to be spun off, I think that would alleviate a lot of bickering in the department, and would enable the remainder of the department to work on new general courses, and on growing as a department. Or, if Literature were to join Modern Languages, that would encourage growth. I think the department is unwieldy as it now stands. It cannot function well with at least two primarily literature professors refusing to be part of the CATS group, but still expecting literature courses. That is, to my mind, unsustainable in the long run, or at the very least inefficient. I also think the Open Major was an experiment that doesn't seem to be helping our students. I believe in some degree of common courses for all emphasis, but believe it is important for students to specialize. And the open major, in my opinion, doesn't force someone to specialize enough for them to dive deep into any area. This results in the danger of our students graduating as jacks of all trades, masters of none.

This would be an opportune time to split the English Department into Creative Writing / Literature / Film (English Arts?) and Rhetoric / Composition / Linguistics (English Sciences?). English educators probably should stay with the Arts. A large, diverse department would become more manageable, and Rhetoric / Composition and Linguistics might be more "at home" in a college of social sciences.

I see no downsides. I like change.

A Writing and Rhetoric Department will open doors across the university and not limit work within a college or department.

The downsides--marginalization of small departments.

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Q5 - Please use this space to list any questions you have regarding the realignment of departments.

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How can you justify the expense when you keep telling faculty that you can't afford to give us better working conditions and reasonable pay increases?

Beneath this all is undoubtedly an evil attempt to destroy what's good and true in the human experience and reduce education to the training of meat puppets for the fascist state. We should not let those who openly oppose the study of meaning decide anything about higher education. The Provost has spent years damaging this institution in irreparable ways.

Would each school/college have its own dean and dean's office? Is it space-appropriate and money-appropriate? Why is psychology coupled with math and engineering? What is gained by separating social sciences from humanities? Would the rearrangement pass the costs-and-balances test?

I think the time has come to discuss splitting us up into two or three departments. That will force each department to focus on its own growth and health, and end the endless infighting.

Why is Psychology not in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences? Why is Journalism and Technical Communications not in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences?

Seems like adding a layer of administration for insufficient visible and predictable benefit.

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**End of Report**