

History Department Responses (in *Italics*):

Questions for Academic Departments:

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.
 - a. Student recruitment
 - b. Student retention
 - c. Student graduation rates

The History Department worries that the proposed reorganization, at least as it applies to CLAS, may adversely affect recruitment, retention, and graduation rates, if the funds used to pay for the reorganization reduce those that might have been steered toward advising and other student services, or if the costs of reorganization force class sizes to increase. The department has noticed that Georgia State University, which has been touted for its strong retention rates, has a College of Arts and Sciences similar in size to our CLAS, so large colleges are not necessarily incompatible with strong retention.

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
 - b. Department reputation/image
 - c. Department revenue
 - d. Program accreditation

We foresee no effect on the History Department in these areas, except potentially department revenues. The revenues generated by the department—a classic, relatively inexpensive, “butts in seats” department—may be needed to pay for reorganization. Our class sizes may thus need to remain larger than ideal, which may affect retention.

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.
 - a. Voting representation (such as on Faculty Senate and Council of Chairs & Directors)
 - b. Collaboration with other departments

Presumably, voting representation could and will be adjusted by entities such as Faculty Senate and Council of Chair and Directors to maintain equity in the aftermath of a reorganization. Unfortunately, however, this will take time and effort that might be better spent.

Splitting CLAS may adversely affect collaboration with other departments. Many of our faculty meet other CLAS faculty through service on CLAS committees. Smaller colleges will discourage these encounters. The department views the current CLAS as the classic, liberal-arts core of the university, with its various disciplines interrelated. Splitting CLAS may create a silo effect, discouraging the interdisciplinary discussions we have.

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

We wonder if there will be unintended effects on the college's General Studies Program, especially as the proposed reorganization will be occurring at the same time that changes to General Studies are being discussed. CLAS now feels like a natural home for the bulk of General Studies courses. The proposed reorganization appears disjointed and out of sync with our General Studies Program's categories. Will students, for example, be confused by a Psychology Department not in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, when they seek a Social and Behavioral Science course to fulfill a General Studies requirement? Probably not, but only if our students aren't smarter than some of our potential donors who allegedly can't figure out how to give money because of the current University structure.

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?

CLAS has some "General Standards of Performance for Faculty," which apply to our department. Presumably they could apply under a new college.

<https://www.msudenver.edu/las/facultyinformation/resources/>

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?

External fundraising efforts in History are minimal. They could be increased with or without a reorganization. We prefer that fundraising be focused at the Dean or Associate Dean level, along with a well-functioning Advancement Office, where it could be perfected. Claims that reorganization will enhance fundraising seem highly speculative to us. We don't envision increased funds coming in under a College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, or under a College of Arts and Humanities. Establishing regular funding for D-Phi may have as much benefit on fundraising as any reorganization, at least as far as the Humanities are concerned.

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? [Remember, these are being put forward as models to promote discussion. They are not finalized plans being voted on.]

The department has voted unanimously in favor of keeping CLAS intact, and it feels ill-equipped to speak to the fate of other entities. That said, if CLAS were to split, the 5 and 7-college versions would probably not affect the daily life of a History Department faculty member, so long as the reorganization generates more revenue than it costs. The College of Arts and Humanities appears the appropriate place to put History, should reorganization proceed.