

Initial Faculty Senate Consultation, January 23, 2023

New Health Related School: Summary of Fall 2023 Semester Activities

SEPTEMBER:

After receiving final reports and additional data trend analyses from the Academic Positioning (AP) Steering Committee, the Provost announced the decision for a structural reorganization resulting in a school focused on health.

At that time, he indicated the new school would reside in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (CSBS) and provided a list of 9 potential founding programs: Athletic Training, Communication Sciences & Disorders, Counseling, Family Services, Gerontology, Kinesiology, Nursing, Public Health, Social Work.

SEPTEMBER THROUGH EARLY DECEMBER:

CSBS Dean Brenda Bass and AP Co-Chair Deedee Heistad met at least once with each of the proposed founding programs. These meetings allowed faculty and staff to share their perspectives and ask questions. The majority of programs expressed excitement about opportunities a reorganization could provide, and strongly urged a timeline for clarity and forward momentum that would launch the school by Fall 2023. They also provided constructive initial feedback for the eventual structure of the school. Further conversations were also had with CHAS Dean Fritch and COE Dean Mulholland, as well as Deans' Council as a whole.

Through multiple meetings and communications, two programs expressed concerns about joining the school: Communication Sciences & Disorders and Social Work. In mid-November, the AP Co-Chairs provided a letter to each program outlining concerns about student enrollment trends that inclusion within the school might help alleviate, and requested a data informed response from each program explaining their perspective for the Provost to review.

Communication Sciences & Disorders provided a detailed, written rationale responding to the enrollment trends and explaining their strong concerns about joining a school structure. Based on their rationale, the Provost agreed they would remain in their current organizational structure as a department within CHAS.

Social Work had multiple further departmental discussions and made the final decision to join the school.

In mid-December, with the final list of 8 founding programs determined (Athletic Training, Counseling, Family Services, Gerontology, Kinesiology, Nursing, Public Health, Social Work) and an official charge provided by the Provost and Academic Positioning Leadership, Dean Bass emailed the faculty and staff in the inaugural founding programs announcing a group meeting during the first week of the Spring 2023 semester. She also notified University Faculty Senate leadership, providing an update and inquiring about their preferred consultation process and timeline.

NEXT STEPS:

- Facilitate large group meeting with inaugural founding programs' faculty and staff (January 18th) to gather input, discuss timeline, and initiate logistics
- Provide initial consultation with Faculty Senate (January 23rd)
- Send update communication to entire campus (week of January 30th)
- Develop a website to house documents and updates for campus
- Schedule further consultations with Faculty Senate throughout Spring 2023