

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 13, 2020

To: Faculty Colleagues in:

- Department of Africana Studies
- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Communication Studies
- Department of English
- Department of History
- Department of Languages, Cultures and International Trade
- Department of Linguistics
- Department of Philosophy
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Sociology

From: David DiLalla



Associate Provost for Academic Administration

RE Request for Faculty Contribution to Proposal Development

I am writing on behalf of Provost Komarraju to seek your participation in development of possible program change proposals in the College of Liberal Arts.

Background: I am distributing this memo to all College of Liberal Arts' Departments with the exception of those that are subject to the pending RME proposal to establish a College of Arts and Media (i.e., School of Art and Design, School of Music, Department of Theater).

As you will be aware, the administration has undertaken a campus-wide process of restructuring / reorganization of academic units. The administration has an interest in development of one or more proposals for CoLA that would consolidate current academic departments in the College into Academic Schools. Our broad interests in restructuring reflect our desire to: a) create a more efficient administrative structure for our academic programs; b) facilitate synergy

through re-alignment of programs; c) eliminate barriers to creating innovative programs; d) facilitate interdisciplinary research; e) highlight our programs for students and help students recognize pathways to reach their educational and career goals. We have a general goal of increasing our enrollment and retention.

The administration has a general interest in creating between 2 and four academic schools in areas such as:

- Humanities & Multicultural Studies (involving, e.g., Africana Studies, History, Philosophy, English)
- Social Science (involving, e.g., Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology)
- Languages, Linguistics and Communication (involving, e.g., LCIT, Linguistics, Speech Communications, English)
- English and Communication Studies (involving, e.g., English, Speech Communications).

We recognize that reorganization may not immediately influence enrollment. However, we believe that re-envisioning and repositioning our programs will have salutary effects on recruitment and retention of students. We also recognize concerns among faculty about preservation of disciplinary identity. We are committed to maintaining disciplinary identity and autonomy via support for: a) discipline-level promotion and tenure standards; b) discipline-level curriculum committees; c) maintenance of clear program-level identity with strong program-level coordinator roles.

We invite faculty feedback and participation in the development of possible proposals in these or other areas. Feedback is particularly welcome from faculty regarding optimal configurations of academic disciplines/departments into academic schools.

Please provide comments / feedback to ddilalla@siu.edu by end of day on January 27, 2020.