

# PROGRESS REPORT

**Working Group Name:** Reassign the University Studies degree programs

**Working Group #:** 17

**Chair:** Tim Scott

**Date:** March 25, 2022

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## Update on Actions Taken Since Last Report:

This is the second progress report.

In the preceding 5 weeks since the last report, the full working group has met bi-weekly whereas each sub-group has met weekly to advance the analysis and develop potential recommendations on the following areas:

- a. Leadership/Administrative Structure Subcommittee (Lead: Lucas Macri)
- b. Advising Structure Subcommittee (Lead: Ashley Corn)
- c. University Studies Redesign Subcommittee (Lead: Patrick Williams)
- d. IDP Programs Subcommittee (Lead: Adam Seipp)
- e. Faculty Affiliation Subcommittee (Lead: Maria Escobar-Lemmon)

Based on a recommendation from the Provost, the working group focused their analysis exclusively on the administration of undergraduate programs.

On March 11, the working group hosted Dr. Brinda Sarathy, Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington – Bothell. Dr. Sarathy shared her experience leading such a unit and recommended to focus our efforts on the practice of interdisciplinarity in the support of our teaching and scholarship mission. The unit should seek to help students understand that they are thinking/learning differently in such interdisciplinary programs. Develop a reflective practice (meta-cognition) that is directed at the integration of different experiences. Learning around broad complex challenges help students develop praxis across multiple fields and develop experiences and skills that they can use in different circumstances.

Multiple drafts of organizational charts have been discussed and refined. These organizational charts continue to be revised and discussed by the group and within many groups across the institution.

The Interdisciplinary unit would not own courses or programs, but can help coordinate common courses, participate in New Student Conference & Howdy Week, offer extra-curricular activities and experiences, coordinate faculty affiliation, as well as market and promote interdisciplinary education to internal and external stakeholders.

The working group also consulted with Deans on which university programs they wish to retain, and be administered by the interdisciplinary unit, and which will be sunsetted in coming years. A list is provided in Appendix A.

A first draft of the expenditures and FTE that will be transferred to the unit (e.g. TAP, BIMS support staff) has been initiated. The working group continues to work with the finance liaisons to better constrain the rest of the budget for such a unit.

### **Next Major Issue to be Addressed:**

Next, the group will need to finalize the expenditure budget for the entire operation.

Similarly, it will need to obtain clarity on what organization structure it ought to follow to start developing the final leadership chart and reporting structure.

### **Problems or Barriers Encountered and Solutions Identified:**

Defining a unit that is truly university-serving but embedded within a singular college is raising a lot of concerns from units outside of the future College of Arts and Sciences. The concern of access and visibility is particularly strong in support of students that will need to access the advising structure. At this point, there is a clear need to clarify which organizational option is preferred by leadership.

Another potential issue that remains unresolved is where this unit will be physically located. It will have a leadership structure and a substantial number of FTEs (particularly advisors). It will need a location that supports the collaborative nature of the work performed by such interdisciplinary unit.

### **Deliverables Completed:**

- High-level functional organizational charts
- Clarity on University Studies programs that will be preserved and those that will be sunsetted.
- Identification of some components of budgets, including FTE salaries/operational funds, that need to be transferred to the interdisciplinary unit.
- Close coordination with the Life Science meta-major working group (#13) in the establishment and operation of a first-year life science program along with the transfer of BIMS to the interdisciplinary unit.

### **Timeline for Completion of Remaining Deliverables:**

April 11-15 – Draft recommendations regarding the administrative organization of the unit for interdisciplinary studies (with a proposed name) will be submitted to SIC for review. The recommendations document will identify a way to move forward the University Studies programs, the IDP programs, the integration of the FYLS program and BIMS into the unit for interdisciplinary studies, and the advising organization.

## Appendix A

The following programs will be administered by the Interdisciplinary unit:

University Studies Concentrations	College	Program Code
<b>Preserved US Degrees</b>		
BS, Global Arts Planning, Design, and Construction	Architecture	BS-USAR-GPD
BS, Business	Mays Bus. School	BS-USBU-BUS
BS, Child Professional Services (non-certificate program)	Education and Human Dev.	BS-USEH-CPS
BA, Race, Gender, Ethnicity	Liberal Arts	BA-USLA-RGE
BA, Society, Ethics and Law	Liberal Arts	BA-USLA-SEL
BS, Race, Gender, Ethnicity	Liberal Arts	BS-USLA-RGE
BS, Arts and Sciences	Science	BS-USSC-ASC
BS, BioInformatics	Science	BS-USSC-BIN
BS, Mathematics for Business	Science	BS-USSC-MBU
BS, Mathematics for Pre-Professionals	Science	BS-USSC-MPP
BS, Mathematics for Teaching	Science	BS-USSC-MFT
BS, Science for Secondary Teaching	Science	BS-USSC-SST
BS, Biomedical Sciences	Vet Medicine	BS-USVM-BIM
<b>Preserved IDP Degrees</b>		
Env. Studies	AGLS	ENST
Env. Studies	GEOS	ENST
Env. Geosciences	GEOS	ENGS
Neuroscience	LBAR	NRSC
Neuroscience	SCIE	NRSC
Neuroscience	BIMS	NRSC
<b>Preserved US Degrees - Galveston</b>		
BS, Oceans and One Health	Galveston	BS-USGA-OOH

The following programs will be discontinued as US and either terminated or changed into departmental majors (all terminated programs will follow a teach out schedule in accord with the THECB).

Discontinued US Degrees		
BS, Environmental Business	Ag. & Life Sciences	BS-USAL-ENB
BS, Leadership Studies	Ag. & Life Sciences	BS-USAL-LED
BS, Dance - Pending new Degree in the new School of Visual & Performing Arts (working title)	Education and Human Dev.	BS-USEH-DAN
BS, Geogr. Information Science and Technology	Geoscience	BS-USGE-GIS
BS, Geography	Geoscience	BS-USGE-GEG
BA, Journalism Studies	Liberal Arts	BA-USLA-JNS
BA, Religious Thought, Practices and Cultures	Liberal Arts	BA-USLA-JNS
BS, Health Humanities	Liberal Arts	BS-USLA-HHM
BS, Liberal Arts	Liberal Arts	BS-USLA-LIB
BS, Business	Mays Bus. School	BS-USBU-BUS
BS, Marine Env Law & Policy	Galveston	BS-USGA-MLP
BS, Tourism & Coastal Comm Dev	Galveston	BS-USGA-TCC