

PROGRESS REPORT

Working Group Name: Interdisciplinary Programs – University Studies

Working Group #: 17

Chair: Tim Scott

Date: February 14, 2022

Update on Actions Taken Since Last Report:

This is the initial report. An introductory meeting with all members of the working group was held on February 11. All but one member of the working group were in attendance. The two co-conveners (Drs. Watson and Louchouart) presented a power point presentation with the working group charge, a proposed vision and mission, data on the number of students this reorganization involves (~8,000), and the potential for creating a unique structure in the nation in support of faculty and student success in interdisciplinary studies.

Part of the discussion involved a first definition of a vision and mission and identifying the strong potential for supporting many students from underrepresented backgrounds (many of these programs show a higher proportion of URMs than the average at the university).

The group subdivided the future work into a set of five sub-groups and the co-conveners would call volunteers by email in subsequent days. The sub-groups are still forming but a first draft of group assignment with broad tasks to answer is presented in appendix.

The group will be evaluating what at peer institutions do in terms of large-scale units in support of interdisciplinary programs/studies (two were identified: University of Washington: <https://www.uwb.edu/ias>; and Duke University: <https://sites.duke.edu/interdisciplinary/>).

First drafts of organizational charts have been discussed and will be refined in coming weeks.

Next Major Issue to be Addressed:

The group will quickly need to determine whether this unit will be an academic unit with faculty or purely an administrative unit. The sub working group dedicated to evaluating the administrative and leadership structure of the unit will work in close collaboration and coordination with the similar subgroup in working group #13 (Life Science First Year program).

Similarly, the group will need to address how University Studies programs should evolve, the development of a “build you own major” program, and the management organization of the graduate IDP program (with or in parallel to the UG program?).

The advising structure for a very large set of programs will need to be identified quickly, especially with respect to the management of the first-year life science (FYLS) program that will

be designed by the working group #13. This group will need to coordinate with Dr. Ann Kenimer's working group on centralized advising to make sure the proposed structure is integrating the concepts and approaches of centralized advising.

Problems or Barriers Encountered and Solutions Identified:

The change of major timeline was open until Feb 14 and members asked if students would be allowed to change major into the university studies during the spring 2022. A recommendation to the Provost to honor the catalog under which these students were admitted was accepted and the message was shared with advisors.

Deliverables Completed:

The assignment of sub working group and charge letter have been completed. A draft of an organization structure is presently being shared with the sub group on leadership/administrative structure.

Timeline for Completion of Remaining Deliverables:

Upcoming deliverables and anticipated dates:

February 25 – Draft recommendations regarding the administrative organization of the unit for interdisciplinary studies (with a proposed name) will be submitted to SIC for review

March 11 – Recommendations regarding 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 will be submitted to SIC for review