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Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 12:46 PM

To: Powers, Joshua <powersj@wpunj.edu>

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Subject: Restructuring conversations in CoSH

Importance: High

Dear Provost Powers:

The College of Science and Health was engaged in restructuring discussions for the past several months both at the departmental levels and at the Chairs' council. Please find attached individual departmental responses to the seven criteria that were used for the conversations. Further as indicated by President Helldobler, you, and the Faculty senate, our thoughts on restructuring revolved not only on the metrics but also on some deep reflections of each unit. Also, please find attached our last Chair's council minutes where we devoted the entire time for restructuring discussions.

From the specific criteria, only one department did not fit the requirements and that is Physics.

Here are our thoughts:

1. From historical times, Physics NEVER offered any majors.
2. Only recently we added a part-time technician to help with the Labs.
3. We anticipate the retirement of Dr. La in the coming year(s).
4. Physics does not have any independent secretarial staff as they share the position with Chemistry.

Based on these facts and with a renewed focus we offer you the following suggestions. Moreover, Physics has come out with a "draft" white paper of how they can remerge as a Department offering a Major in Engineering Physics.

Suggestion A:

1. Physics remains as a separate department as long as it can reframe and offer a major in Engineering Physics. My own research and from past experience using Noel-Levitz data, Engineering Physics is an attractive major.
2. Share secretarial staff with Chemistry as currently operate.
3. Use the retirement position of Dr. La to create a 1.5 position towards this Major, making it budget neutral.
4. Hold the department accountable to start with a modest Major of at least 10 the first year, with an increase of 5-7 every other year for the foreseeing 4 years to get a total major number to at least 35-40, in 4-years
5. If enrollments increase, we will follow our approved budget process as done for new programs.
6. Provide the department an opportunity to grow and be accountable.

Suggestion B:

1. Merge with the Department of Mathematics and have a program in Engineering Physics.
2. Eliminate Chair position and provide 1 course release time for a Program Coordinator for Physics.
3. Allow them to develop Major in Engineering Physics contingent upon modest enrollments as indicated above.
4. Develop an approved budget process as done for new programs, if enrollment targets are met.
5. On meeting successful enrollment targets they can revert back to an independent department

If you wish to discuss more on this recommendation in person, please let me know.

Best,
Venkat

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