

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST:	Approval of Restructuring Academic Departments within the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Michigan—Flint
CURRENT DEPARTMENTS:	Africana Studies; Art and Art History; Biology; Chemistry and Biochemistry; Communication Studies; Computer Science, Engineering, and Physics; Economics; English; Foreign Languages and Literatures; History; Mathematics; Music; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice; Theatre and Dance
RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENTS:	Fine and Performing Arts; Language and Communication; Social Sciences and Humanities; Behavioral Sciences; Natural Sciences; Mathematics and Applied Sciences
EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 1, 2021

In September 2020, after several years of study of both institutional data and national trends in higher education, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Michigan—Flint held a State of the College address calling for a review of the college’s structure and named a Task Force on College Restructuring, comprised of eight faculty from across the college. Significant enrollment declines in both faculty and student numbers were a major impetus for the restructuring. Additional factors that led to the decision to restructure the college included: the expressed desire of the faculty through our strategic plan to increase interdisciplinary opportunities; a desire to promote revenue diversification through collaborative external research funding; the need to transform the college curriculum and develop new market-driven programs; and a desire to improve operating efficiency.

The Task Force began working immediately in early September 2020 to fulfill its charge of presenting multiple models for faculty consideration. The task force conducted surveys, held department visits to gather extensive feedback, examined institutional data, and looked to models for effective college departmental structures outside of the University of Michigan - Flint prior to proposing three models for the college to consider in November 2020. Multiple listening sessions were held by the Task Force and the college’s executive committee to gather feedback on the proposed models. That feedback informed the dean’s generation of two revised models for further consideration. Formal feedback from the college’s governing faculty was sought via a survey in December, 2020. Another working group of faculty proposed two additional models and surveyed faculty regarding these models. Feedback provided from all sources was considered to create the recommendation for restructuring into six departments as described below.

- Dept. of Fine and Performing Arts: *Art, Dance, Music, Theatre*
- Dept. of Language and Communication: *Communication Studies, English, Foreign Languages*
- Dept. of Social Sciences and Humanities: *Africana Studies, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science*
- Dept. of Behavioral Sciences: *Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Sociology*
- Dept. of Natural Sciences: *Biology, Chemistry, Physics*
- Dept. of Mathematics and Applied Sciences: *Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics*

This reorganization plan is fully supported by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the Chancellor of the University of Michigan – Flint.

Recommended by:



Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation Endorsed by:



Sonja Feist-Price, Provost
and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Recommendation Endorsed by:



Debasish Dutta, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

February 2021