

June 6, 2019

Dear Members of the Task Force on the Structure of the College of Arts and Sciences,

I have received your final report dated May 21, 2019, examining the structure of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). I am very grateful to each of you for taking on this important review. As you detail in your report and five sub-committee reports, it is no small undertaking to consider a restructuring of a college that is at the heart of our liberal arts mission.

The task force was asked to conduct an analysis of the costs and benefits to making structural changes to the division of academic programs currently housed in CAS, and those in professional schools that may better align with current CAS departments. The focus of the analysis was to be rooted in the CAS departments' abilities to individually and collectively—with the highest level of success—meet the university's goal and mission of excellence in teaching, research and scholarship, and service.

It is clear from the task force analysis that at this time members found fewer benefits than challenges to restructuring CAS. However, the committee did identify a series of possible improvements that should be considered within the existing structure that could potentially better position CAS faculty, staff, and administrative leadership to serve the university's teaching and research mission. I agree that the energy of the CAS leadership should focus on addressing the challenges and opportunities for improvement within the current structure. This is important work that should begin right away and continue when a new dean is hired.

As you know, we are in the midst of hiring a new provost, who will take on the responsibility of hiring the new dean of CAS, and partnering with that dean and other CAS leaders to ensure the college is successful going forward. I anticipate sharing the report with the new provost and discussing its implications. I also expect the new provost will launch a search for the new dean this fall.

In the meantime, I would like for the CAS leadership to move into a new phase of review and idea generation. I ask the current leadership team to think deeply about the issues and opportunities that are internal to the college that can move us forward. CAS leaders should come back to me and the provost later this summer with thoughts about what they can do now to improve the college, what they will encourage the new dean to implement, and what items may be worth further discussion.

I again want to thank the task force members for their dedication and focus to this project. I am optimistic that the analysis will help move the college and university forward to enhance our ability to meet our mission as a public research university.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law

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