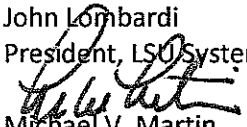




CAMPUS CORRESPONDENCE

Date: May 5, 2009

To: John Lombardi
President, LSU System

From: 
Michael V. Martin
Chancellor, LSU A&M

Subject: Proposed Realignment of Academic Units for
LSU Board of Supervisors Review at the June Meeting

Implementation of Louisiana State University's National Flagship Agenda has led us to revisit the organizational configuration of a number of academic units. Most importantly, the rigidity of organizational lines presented several hurdles to realizing the aspirations of the Flagship Agenda despite the enormous strides made in translating our aspirations into palpable gains. In advancing this plan to realign and rename a number of academic units, LSU presents these changes as both mission and administratively driven in nature and offers assurances to sustain the integrity of all the affected academic programs.

Cardinal among those obstacles was our difficulty in marshalling expertise dispersed in a number of fields—most notably social sciences and social-related professions—to realize our mission of learning, discovery and creativity as well as civic engagement in a concerted and contemporary mode. The fragmented and confusing arrangement of some academic units impedes our efforts in some critical areas like the socio-civic-economic domain to mount the best programs of instruction, leverage external funding for research and scholarship, and discharge our land-grant mission as an indispensable resource for the state of Louisiana. Put another way: LSU's list of Foundations of Excellence which includes eleven programs and our five awards under the Multi-Disciplinary Initiatives in one sense spotlight our strengths, but also disclose by omission our shortcomings. The latter can, in part, be attributable to our organizational boundaries.

In several domains, the fragmentation of affinity areas often invites confusion both within and outside of the University. Moreover, the rubric of college and school as the central organizing unit lacks any semblance of administrative logic, as do the mix of titles as between dean and director. Clarity and consistency are attendant goals of the realignment.

The overall objectives of the realignment in serving the academic mission of LSU include realigning organizational units with affinity disciplines and professions within colleges, fostering further collaboration, solidifying academic expertise in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences as well as the professions, respectively, and infusing the modern land-grant mission of engagement throughout the University as predicated on learning, discovery and creativity. As part of this reorganization we have challenged the Dean of the College of Agriculture to work with the LSU Agricultural Center to outline its role in helping to shape our Land Grant efforts in the 21st century.



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In addition, the realignment will achieve a number of objectives designed to increase administrative effectiveness, efficiency, clarity and accountability while preserving current admission and degree requirements and our obligation to students. These objectives include reducing redundancy in both academic pursuits and support structures (e.g. operating functions such as accounting and human resource management, advising, development), promoting coordination rather than fragmentation, and assuring consistency and clarity in administrative titles, rubrics etc. (e.g. colleges/schools/divisions/departments; deans/directors).

We propose the following changes to LSU's organizational structure (Tables 1 and 2). These changes were developed in discussions with the University Planning Council, shared with both the Faculty and Staff senates for feedback and presented at a campus-wide forum. The Provost has met with the faculty and/or chairs of all of the affected units to elicit comments. We are available to offer further clarity and justification as needed and look forward to the Flagship Committee's and the Board's concurrence in what is an internal realignment and selective renaming of several academic units.

The Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost has established a participatory transition/implementation process. Through this process, we will assess the academic and administrative changes associated with realignment. Based on the outcomes of this process, we will phase in realignment implementation.

As we enter the new Flagship Agenda for 2020 we recognize that LSU must constantly adapt as different opportunities and challenges emerge. As such, similar adjustments may be needed in the future to ensure LSU is operating as a 21st century Land-Grant research university.



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Table 1
OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED REALIGNMENT

College of Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS)

New Name: The College of Arts & Sciences will be renamed the **College of Humanities and Social Sciences**.

Department Moves:

- The Department of **Economics** and the **Public Administration Institute** will move to HSS from the E J Ourso College of Business
- The Department of **Experimental Statistics** will move to HSS from the College of Agriculture

College of Science

New Name: The College of Basic Sciences will be renamed **The College of Sciences**

Department Moves:

- Department of **Mathematics** will move to the College of Basic Sciences from the College of Arts & Sciences

College of Social and Educational Professions (SEP)

New Name: The College of Education, including the Departments of Kinesiology and Education Theory, Policy and Practice, along with the Lab School will be renamed and included under **The College of Social and Educational Professions**

School/Department Moves:

- **The School of Social Work** will move to SEP as the **School of Social Work**.
- The School of Library and Information Science will move to SEP as the **Department of Library and Information Sciences**
- The School of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development will move to SEP as the **Department of Human Resource Education & Workforce Development** from the College of Agriculture
- **The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders** will move to SEP from the College of Arts and Sciences

New Departments:

- **The Department of Family and Child Studies** will be established in SEP by moving appropriate faculty from the School of Human Ecology in the College of Agriculture



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College of Art and Design

New Department:

- The Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising will be established in the College of Art and Design by moving appropriate faculty from the School of Human Ecology in the College of Agriculture

College of Agriculture*

Department merger:

- The Nutrition section will move from the School of Human Ecology into the Department of Food Science in the College of Agriculture.

All remaining Schools will be renamed Colleges:

- College of the Coast and the Environment
- The Graduate College
- The Manship College of Mass Communications
- The College of Veterinary Medicine



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Table 2
List of Colleges at
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

1. College of the Coast and Environment
2. College of Social and Educational Professions
3. College of Humanities and Social Sciences
4. College of Mass Communications
5. College of Science
6. College of Veterinary Medicine
7. College of Agriculture
8. College of Art and Design
9. College of Business
10. College of Engineering
11. College of Music & Dramatic Arts
12. Graduate College
13. Honors College
14. University College