Task Forces on Restructuring

With the Faculty Senate discussion and vote in support of restructuring the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Criminal Justice now complete, it is now time to address the many issues associated with the formation of the new colleges. Towards this end, I am forming task forces to advise the Office of the Provost on identifying homes for the departments of Communication Studies and Education; for those interdisciplinary programs that have not been placed within one of the new colleges; and for the instructional programs currently located in the College of Arts and Sciences that serve larger University constituencies. Task forces are also being formed to address the operational, administrative, and space requirements of the new colleges and to make recommendations for how current college-level policies and committees in the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Criminal Justice may be reconciled and adapted to serve the new colleges.

A list of these task forces and their charges follows. The membership of the task forces may be changed or augmented as their work develops. Student members as appropriate have been appointed to a number of these task forces, in consultation with the Student Government Association and the Graduate and Professional Student Association.

Institutional change on this scale calls for the best efforts of many dedicated members of Northeastern’s faculty, staff, and administration. I would like to thank in advance the members of the task forces for agreeing to serve in these important roles.

Stephen W. Director, Provost

The Task Force on the Communication Studies Department is asked to:

Recommend a home in either the College of Arts, Media and Design or the College of Social Sciences and Humanities for the Department of Communication Studies as it is currently constituted. Expected completion date: December 10, 2009.
Members: Marjorie Platt (CBA), Chair; all tenured and tenure-track faculty in Communication Studies; Timothy Love (Architecture), Alan Schroeder (Journalism), Kerry Salerno (EMSA), Michael Tolley (Political Science); Marissa Basile (student member, Communication Studies), Meredith Nydam (student member, Communication Studies).

The Task Force on the Department of Education is asked to:

Recommend a home for the Department of Education and a home and reporting structure for the Balfour Academy. Expected completion date: December 10, 2009.

Members: Bruce Ronkin (Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences), Chair; all tenured and tenure-track faculty with full appointments in Education; Christopher Hopey (Dean, College of Professional and Continuing Studies), Karin Lifter (Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology).

The Task Force on Interdisciplinary Programs in Arts and Sciences is asked to:

Review and, if needed, recommend changes to the following assignments of interdisciplinary programs to college homes, in consultation with the director of each program. (The recommendation for college restructuring did not specify college homes for interdisciplinary programs with fewer than 25 majors.) If a rationale for reconsideration is presented, review the presently assigned college homes of other interdisciplinary programs in consultation with the program director, program faculty, and chairs of departments contributing courses to the program.

- Asian Studies: College of Social Sciences and Humanities
- East Asian Studies: College of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Interactive Media (Creative Industries): College of Arts, Media and Design
- Jewish Studies: College of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Latino/a, Latin American & Caribbean Studies: College of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Leadership Studies: College of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Marine Studies: College of Science
- Middle East Studies: College of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Urban Studies: College of Social Sciences and Humanities
Women’s Studies: College of Social Sciences and Humanities

Expected completion date: December 10, 2009.

Members: Christopher Bosso (Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences), Chair; Joseph Ayers (Biology), Patricia Illingworth (Philosophy and Religion), Leon Janikian (Music), Gordana Rabrenovic (Sociology and Anthropology), Jillian Donadio (student member, Linguistics).

The Task Force on University-Level Programs in Arts and Sciences is asked to:

- Recommend a structure for undeclared majors in CAS, considering as possibilities either admitting students as undeclared into one of the three new colleges or admitting undeclared students interested in one or more of the three new colleges into a shared first-year experience. Assess the recruitment and retention strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with both models and recommend a plan in each model for reassigning resources currently in CAS. Expected completion date: December 10, 2010.
- Recommend a structure for the General Studies Program, including an admissions home; plans for reassigning resources currently in CAS; and a directing and reporting structure. Expected completion date: January 10, 2010.
- Recommend an admissions home for students entering through the Ujima Scholars Program. Expected completion date: January 10, 2010.

Members: Susan Powers-Lee (Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Cooperative Education), Chair; Tony De Ritis (Music), Chris Hopey (Dean, College of Professional and Continuing Studies), Mary Mello (Student Services, College of Arts and Sciences), Rick Porter (Math), John Portz (Political Science), Bruce Ronkin (Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences), Ronné Patrick Turner (EMSA), Tanya Schillawski (student member, CAS-undeclared).

The Task Force on Graduate Program Administration in the New Colleges is asked to:

Outline options for administering and staffing graduate programs in the three colleges, assuming they will operate at least initially with a shared administrative center, and develop plans for how current resources assigned to CAS and CCJ may be reassigned. Expected completion date: January 10, 2010.
Members: Luis Falcon (Vice Provost for Graduate Education), Chair; George Alverson (Physics), Amy Killeen (Graduate Student Services, College of Arts and Sciences), Jack McDevitt (Associate Dean, College of Criminal Justice), Kay Onan (Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences), Wendy Smith (Biology), Peter Wiederspahn (Architecture), Margaret Keaveny (student member, MPA program).

The Task Force on Operational Needs of the New Colleges is asked to:

- Outline options for staffing plans for the three College Dean’s Offices, assuming they operate at least initially with a shared administrative center to address financial management (including research support), HR and facilities matters. Budgets for these options should be included as well as the criteria for the staffing proposed. Plans should address how current resources assigned to CAS and CCJ would be reassigned, what staffing is needed at the department level and how shared service centers could be used for departmental support.

- Assess impact of restructuring on shared NU central services such as recruiting, admission and financial aid for undergraduate students.

- Review plans for the hybrid budget model to make sure all current CAS revenue and expense can be appropriately assigned to the 3 new colleges and recommend implementation plan.

- Review CAS’ current chart of accounts and identify where accounts should be reassigned to one of the new colleges.

- Identify all “systems” changes (e.g., new orgs, course numbers, websites, etc.) that must be made.

- Assess and recommend options for the locations of the 3 new Dean’s offices and shared administrative center(s). Consider the geography / desired adjacencies for the various parts of these colleges and the visibility / “campus presence” factor vis a vis their Dean’s Offices. Revisit the “backfill” space plan re: needs of the 3 new colleges. Provide initial estimate for renovation / relocation costs associated with restructuring.

- Provide an implementation roadmap, a general timeline as to the sequencing of the recommendations to meet the 7/1/10 implementation target.
Expected completion date: January 10, 2010.

Members: Judith Pitney (Vice Provost for Budget, Planning and Administration), Chair; Linda Allen (EMSA), Chester Britt (Interim Dean, College of Criminal Justice), Mike Bruno (Finance and Administration), Seamus Harreys (EMSA), Graham Jones (Chemistry and Chemical Biology), Ruthann Stiles (Academic Fiscal Affairs, Office of the Provost), Bruce Ronkin (Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences), James Sarazen (Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, George Thrush (Architecture), Cheryl Whitfield (HR)

The Task Force on Committees and Policies in the College of Arts, Media and Design is asked to:

Review existing CAS college-level policies, committees, and councils and recommend any revisions needed to make them applicable and operational in the College of Arts, Media and Design, recognizing that final agreement on the internal structures of the college will await the review of the incoming dean. Through the Chair of the Task Force, coordinate with EMSA on recruitment and admissions issues during the transition to the new college structure. Expected completion date: February 10, 2010.

Members: Stephen Burgard (Director, School of Journalism), Task Force Chair; Janet Bobcean (Chair, Theatre), Tony DeRitis (Chair, Music), M. Isabel Meirelles (Interim Chair, Art + Design), George Thrush (Director, School of Architecture).

The Task Force on Committees and Policies in the College of Science is asked to:

Review existing CAS college-level policies, committees, and councils and recommend any revisions needed to make them applicable and operational in the College of Science, recognizing that final agreement on the internal structures of the college will await the review of the incoming dean. Through the Chair of the Task Force, coordinate with EMSA on recruitment and admissions issues during the transition to the new college structure. Expected completion date: February 10, 2010.

Members: Malcolm Hill (Chair, Earth and Environmental Science), Task Force Chair; Fred Davis (Interim Chair, Biology), Rhea Eskew (Chair, Psychology), Graham Jones (Chair, Chemistry and Chemical Biology), Richard Porter (Chair, Mathematics), Sri Sridhar (Chair, Physics).
The Task Force on Committees and Policies in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities is asked to:

Review and reconcile existing college-level policies, committees, and councils in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Criminal Justice; recommend any revisions needed to make them applicable and operational in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, recognizing that final agreement on the internal structures of the college will await the review of the incoming dean. Through the Chair of the Task Force, coordinate with EMSA on recruitment and admissions issues during the transition to the new college structure. Expected completion date: February 10, 2010.

Members: Dennis Cokely (Chair, Languages, Literatures and Cultures), Task Force Chair; Barry Bluestone (Dean, School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs), Chester Britt (Interim Dean, College of Criminal Justice), Laura Frader (Chair, History), Laura Green (Chair, English), Steve Morrison (Chair, Economics), John Portz (Chair, Political Science), Emmett Price (Chair, African American Studies), Susan Setta (Chair, Philosophy and Religion), Steven Vallas (Chair, Sociology and Anthropology).