

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
UPRAC 2/20/15

STEM

- ◆ Should remain in A&S where degree programs reside
 - ◆ Current model works
 - ◆ Trains Scientists & Mathematicians to teach
 - ◆ Disciplinary identity is important for future teachers
- ◆ 81 Current Majors
 - ◆ Should be allowed to complete program for which they were recruited
- ◆ Move would likely disrupt curricula in existing STEM departments
 - ◆ Need for change should meet a high standard
- ◆ Elimination of mentor teachers is unwise
 - ◆ No cost – veteran teacher volunteers
 - ◆ Required for field placement courses
 - ◆ STEM Ed students must complete 19 days in school system

Music and Theatre & Speech

- ◆ Should be called “School of Performing Arts” to provide positive branding
- ◆ Justification for change should be:
 - ◆ “Increase community engagement and lift the profile of UTC’s performing arts by combining administrative resources.”
 - ◆ “Increase productivity and efficiency of administrative duties.”

Art and SCEA

- ◆ SCEA positions funded by an endowment, so basis of \$15k savings is unclear.
- ◆ Merged SCEA would retain autonomy
 - ◆ Both Art and SCEA have unique missions
- ◆ Administrative assistants in both Art and SCEA have unique responsibilities and should not be merged.

Philosophy & MCLL

- ◆ Disparate programs – merger diminishes stature of both
- ◆ Disenfranchises and marginalizes committed faculty
- ◆ Both programs have growth plans. If size is an issue, departments should be given time to grow before merger.
- ◆ Unique needs of merged departments can't be met equally by one Head.
- ◆ Departments are already willing to share an admin without merging, so savings is less than \$40K.

Physics, Geology & Astronomy

- ◆ Proposal is a profound mistake
- ◆ Detrimental to departments, students and provides no real cost savings
- ◆ Department exceeds average SCH per FTE for UTC
- ◆ Biology and Environmental Science already too big
- ◆ Changes would require additional coordinators and Admins
- ◆ Current organization is logical. Splitting Physics and Astronomy makes no sense
- ◆ Loss of identity and stature for Physics faculty and majors
- ◆ Moving from 3 to 2 Science departments doesn't work