**“Seeds of Innovation Proposal—Restructuring” Presentation by Dr. Katia Passerini to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents - – 8/31/21**

This is an overview of the Provost’s presentation.

The Provost began by reviewing the process that led to the proposals, including the connection to the University Strategic Plan, especially Goal 5.

She stated that the goal of the proposed changes is the redeployment of university resources in order to create a better balance between administrative and instructional expenses, putting us in line with peer institutions.

Stephen Graham gave financial data and explained that the proposal targets both revenue--bringing in students--and expenses.

Since A&S is most affected in the deployment of resources, one goal is to provide more resources there.

The proposed merger of Nursing and SHMS would achieve an economics of scale.

The Restructuring Committee’s recommendations took 4 forms: expanding (A&S), combining (COAR.CEHS, BURS/SHMS), establishing “stretch goals’ (Diplomacy), and enhancing interdisciplinarity (Academies).

Dr. Passerini shared the timeline of events that took place, including office hours, presentations, and web site feedback.

She then noted the “key trends” in the feedback that was received, which were related to process and operational questions (what’s next?):

Timeline

Communication/Transparency

Transparency/Shared Governance

Operational Questions/Logistics

Website data:

140 entries as of 6/24

There were also comments gathered from the town hall meeting and questions gathered from the individual colleges/schools.

A sentiment analysis revealed:

65 comments were negative

33 comments were neutral

42 comments were positive

Votes from the schools:

Majority no from CEHS

Majority no from COAR

Majority no from NURS

Majority yes from SHMS [I noted in my comments that the possibility of tenure had an influence on this vote]

The tallies included yes/no/abstain/undecided.

For A&S, Provost Passerini reported the college’s resolution, using the language of the resolution.

She noted that the History department objected to voting in the summer.

She referenced the letter from Nursing to Chairman Marino.

She also noted that Diplomacy endorsed Acting Dean Smith to lead the school s it worked towards its goals and the School of Law did not want a permanent decision on Vice-Dean beyond the interim period.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Balkun

Faculty Senate Chairperson

9/8/21