



Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate
Seton Hall University

From: Katia Passerini, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice President

Re: CEHS Resolution About Restructuring Vote
2021-FS-28

Date: November 2, 2021

We are in receipt of 2021-FS-28, the memo on *CEHS Resolution About Restructuring Vote* that the Faculty Senate approved at its October 8 meeting.

Rest assured that the Provost's report to the Board of Regents was appropriately detailed and included the votes from each college and comprehensive summaries of feedback from the faculty, highlighting both key trends and a sentiment analysis of all feedback received during the extended timeframe. CEHS voted against the proposal and might have been disappointed, but the Board of Regents has made its decision. We now look forward to working together constructively to create a more sustainable new College that better serves students and faculty alike, preserves the appropriate autonomy and integrity of the different disciplines, yet promotes greater curricular and scholarly innovation and collaboration.

The actual votes by each College were in fact presented completely and correctly to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents. This claim can be corroborated by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee report of September 10, 2021, and by the detailed notes the Chair of the Faculty Senate recorded from the portion of the Academic Affairs Committee meeting that she attended on August 31, 2021.

The Provost maintains that the vote taken by CEHS, 19 opposing, 2 favoring, and 3 not casting a vote, is consistent with the description "The College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) and the College of Communication and the Arts (COAR) **provided a range of opinions supporting and opposing the initial draft.**" In fact, a significant percentage of votes in Communication and the Arts were supportive and provided insightful feedback and new ideas for the way forward. That said, as a public communication to the community as a whole, the weekly e-mail from Academic Affairs necessarily includes less detail, given the sensitivity of the information provided, than a presentation to the Board or to an individual unit. For

example, we must dutifully respect the University Policy on Confidential Information (dated April 10, 2006, revised and approved May 8, 2014, <https://www.shu.edu/policies/confidential-information.cfm>). None of the public communications about *Seeds of Innovation* highlighted in detail the negative budget and enrollment numbers that some, but not all, professional schools are experiencing. *Seeds of Innovation* intends to address some of these persistent issues by pairing colleges to create synergies from their different strengths, including growing markets that can be captured and the potential for scholarly distinction.

The same communication to the University community also affirmed that the Provost not only heard but also acted upon the varied opinions and feedback from the faculty, which helped her offer a modified proposal for the Board of Regents to approve:

My office received helpful feedback throughout this portion of the process, which was further extended through June 30 at the request of the Faculty Senate. By soliciting feedback and comments for more than 70 days and holding over 70 meetings and office hours, the ad hoc committee and the Provost's Office not only listened to — but acted on — the input they received. The committee and I then produced a modified Seeds of Innovation proposal that included many of your suggestions.

The modified proposal and feedback were reviewed in great depth by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents. The committee also heard from Mary Balkun, Ph.D., new chair of the Faculty Senate. Additionally, at the recommendation of the Academic Affairs Committee, the entire Board of Regents received a full briefing from the Provost and was provided access to all community feedback. After thoroughly reviewing the full complement of materials, the Board of Regents approved the modified Seeds of Innovation proposal.

So, rest assured that the votes of the College of Education and Human Services are part of the record and were communicated to the Board of Regents at the right time and know that the Board finalized its support of the proposal with such requested information at hand.