

Proposal 4

Two Caucuses Proposal

The Proposal:

The College shall organize itself by Departments into two caucuses for the purpose of creating and maintaining the College Core Curriculum for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Sciences.

Rationale:

The Humanities and Sciences have increasing divergent views of the structure of a major, and resulting divergent ideas of the proper content and structure of a Core Curriculum. This divergence makes it impossible to develop a common core curriculum for all students in the College. It is therefore proposed that:

- The Departments within the College shall organize themselves into two caucuses: one for Departments that offer only a Bachelor of Arts degree and one for Departments that offer only a Bachelor of Sciences degree.
- The Departments offering both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Sciences degrees shall vote to join one caucus or the other.
- The Arts caucus shall determine the content and structure of the Core Curriculum of the Bachelor of Arts degree.
- The Sciences caucus shall determine the content and structure of the Core Curriculum of the Bachelor of Sciences degree.
- Each caucus will form a Degree Core Curriculum Committee as a standing committee within the College to monitor the applicable Core Curriculum.
- The two Core Curriculums and Caucuses will be independent of each other in all respects.

Advantages:

The B.A. and B.S. Core Curriculums, independently determined by the Departments offering the relevant degrees, will be consistent with the needs and pedagogical philosophies of the two types of degrees. For example, a large, broadly distributed core curriculum can be designed to complement the small, less stove-piped Arts majors. A more focused, compact core can be designed to strategically supplement the larger, highly structured majors in the Sciences.