

October 6, 1992

Draft charge for Arts and Sciences Review Committee

We have appointed a committee made up of an equal number of faculty from the College of Humanities and Social Science and the College of Science and Mathematics to study the organization of the arts and sciences on the Columbia campus.

Our fundamental premise is that the liberal arts and sciences constitute the central core of the university, the academic bedrock upon which our professional and graduate programs are built. Yet this core is divided into two parts, separating social scientists, humanists, and artists into one camp, with the natural and physical scientists and mathematicians in the other.

This is not the pattern nationally. In the American Association of Universities, the most prestigious group of major research universities, 42 of the 57 AAU institutions have a single arts and sciences unit.

We offer the following hypothesis for the committee to consider: that the arts and sciences would be strengthened through consolidation into a single college; that possibilities for synergistic, interdisciplinary collaboration could be enhanced; that the centrality of arts and sciences would be strengthened.

While this represents our current thinking, we recognize that there are alternative organizational structures that should be considered as well. Thus, we anticipate that the committee will examine a variety of possible structures, with their own recommendations.

The committee will be asked to study this issue and to report to the president and the provost no later than the end of the current semester.