

Academic Transformation
Academic Advisory Committee
4.28.21

Vice Provost Paul Kreider presented on academic reorganization. Prior to his presentation, David Attis provided some national context for reorganizations.

Context from Attis: Why do institutions change academic structures? Some things evolve regularly (e.g., research, academic programs, curriculum, course offerings), while other things change more slowly (e.g., colleges, schools, departments, centers/institutes). As the structures change, academic activities (programs, curriculum, etc.) and structures (colleges, schools) become misaligned. Scale and efficiency from an administrative sense also becomes an issue.

Attis explained that there are two major categories of reorganization: 1) combining smaller units to reduce administrative overhead; and 2) combining units with curricular or research overlap to improve collaboration.

There are different approaches to reorganization:

- Institutes/centers that pull together folks into a single unit
- Grand challenges -- poverty, mental health
- Cross-disciplinary colleges
- Cross-disciplinary departments
- University institutes

As part of strategic transformation, the Provost's Office team is considering several possible mergers/combinations. These mergers are to eliminate redundancies or better align current programs with college home or academic affairs unit.