



Dear Team:

Thank you for the time, energy, creativity and enthusiasm you brought to the process of discerning strategic direction for Belmont in the area of Interdisciplinary Academic processes and programs. I am pleased to report to you the feedback from the senior leadership team. The feedback will be announced publicly at the meeting on February 2.

The recommendations approved by the senior leadership team are:

- Cultivate interdisciplinary academic thinking through a Call for Proposals (CFP) for new interdisciplinary initiatives that is initiated by ISGE, reviewed by a newly formed Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (IAC) and approved by the Curriculum and Catalog Committee.
- Establish a campus wide award for Interdisciplinary Academic Thinking/Collaborations.
- Create a webpage for all interdisciplinary efforts at Belmont.

The senior leadership team believes the following points need to be addressed in executing the recommendations listed above:

- Who will maintain the new web page?
- Who will administer the award?
- Who will support the work of the IAC?
- How should a campus conversation about literacy be reinvigorated?

Although the team agrees with the need to rebrand BELL Core Learning Communities and revive the Honors program in leadership as an interdisciplinary program, we believe these initiatives will best be achieved by the faculty led conversation about BELL Core improvements which is currently underway.

We ask that the faculty members of the V2020 Interdisciplinary Team, under the leadership of Mimi Barnard, assume the responsibility of working this semester towards a summer 2017 launch of a CFP, associated website and criteria, and timetable for the award. We also ask this team to assess the responses to the CFP and make recommendations to the Curriculum and Catalog Committee for new interdisciplinary academic programs to begin in fall 2018.

Other tasks that need attention from this group include making recommendations about how their work can transition into a standing IAC to serve the university's interdisciplinary aspirations in

the years ahead and how to assess the outcomes of new interdisciplinary programs. In doing this work, we anticipate the team will need to utilize staff support from ISGE, UMPR, and the Teaching Center as well as the support of other academic leaders on campus.

Thomas Burns and Jason Rogers will serve as the continuing senior leadership team contact persons for the work of this group.

As new interdisciplinary academic programs are developed, new staff or faculty needs associated with such efforts will be considered at that time. As always, the emphasis should be on reinventing the work patterns of current employees and not presumptively hiring new persons to do new work.

I look forward to seeing you all at the V2020 meeting on Thursday.

Best,

Jason