

# Faculty Senate

February 8, 2017

# Announcements

1. New Major: Environment and Sustainability
2. Resolution on Indigenous Peoples' Day

*We will vote on these at the March meeting.  
Details on the DoF Website.*

# New Major: Environment and Sustainability

Shared by two colleges:

Agriculture and Life Sciences

Arts and Sciences

← Half of the ugrad population

Vetting:

CALS: Curriculum Committee

CAS: Educational Policy Committee

Senate: Committee on Academic Programs & Policies

Posted for 30-day review on the DoF Website

# New Major: Environment and Sustainability

The existing CALS major in

Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

is broadened by including a Humanities component.

# New Major: Environment and Sustainability

## Core Areas:

Environmental Physics

Environmental Biology

Environmental Humanities

Environmental Social Sciences

Statistics

# Resolution on Indigenous Peoples' Day

Replace all instances of "Columbus Day" with "Indigenous Peoples' Day"

10

COLUMBUS DAY  
THANKSGIVING (CANADA)

Current

E.g., the  
"College Store"  
Academic  
Calendar

10

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY  
THANKSGIVING (CANADA)

Proposed

# Resolution on Indigenous Peoples' Day

Basically the same as Student Assembly Resolution 46 (2016):

*Be it therefore resolved that the Faculty Senate, in concurrence with the Student Assembly, recommends that the Provost amends Cornell University's Academic Calendar to annually recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October.*

Sponsored by the University Faculty Committee (UFC).

Special thanks to Benjamin Oster '17 (Kanien'kehá:ka-Mohawk)

# Curriculum Review in Arts & Sciences

Update + Connections to the Other Colleges



# How the Colleges Rely on A&S

1. Freshman Writing Seminars
2. Use distribution categories to define college breadth req'ts.
3. Philosophical leadership in matters that concern liberal education.

Much of the curriculum discussion is (and should be) internal to A&S. But to the extent that it affects life in the colleges, we must all pay attention.

The functions of the University Faculty shall be to consider questions of educational policy which concern more than one college, school or separate academic unit, or are general in nature. (Article XIII, University Bylaws)

# Reliance on A&S: FWS

Most colleges require two Freshman Writing Seminars

There are about 150 sections this term.

How we brag about them:

- Small class size.

- Opportunity to meet other freshman from distant colleges.

- Their obvious contributions to analytical thinking + writing.

- The valuable teaching opportunities they create for graduate students.

# Reliance on A&S: Designing Breadth Req'ts

The colleges vary in how they live off of these categories:

- CA cultural analysis
- HA historical analysis
- KCM knowledge, cognition, and moral reasoning
- LA literature and the arts
- SBA social and behavioral analysis
- FL foreign language (not literature)

# Other Types of Breadth Requirements

## Arts and Sciences:

- Geographic breadth requirement

- Historic breadth requirement

## Agriculture and Life Science:

- Diversity course requirement

## Also talked about:

- Climate change literacy course requirement

- Digital Age literacy course requirement

- University-wide diversity course requirement (SA Res 57 (2016))

# A&S Curriculum Discussions

Curriculum Reform Committee (CRC)

*Been in operation for about a year*

Department Liaison Committee

*Connects each A&S department to the CRC*

Humanities Chairs' Group

*Offered curriculum perspectives at a recent A&S Chairs Meeting*

Provost's Arts and Humanities Task Force

*One of the Radical Collaboration groups*

# Some Discussion Points

Concern that the distribution model is not working

*students take courses in subfields and never see foundational ideas*

Foundational Courses

*co-teaching, time-stamping*

Re-examine the FWS

*perhaps connecting some of them to foundational courses*

Budget model concerns

*does it provide incentives?*

# Provost's Curriculum Oversight Committee

## Curriculum Elements Subcommittee

*Can we have a common undergraduate curriculum experience?*

## Governance Subcommittee

Subcommittee reports just out.  
Will be posted on DoF Website

*How can we avoid course overlap and duplication?*

## Access to Gateway Courses Subcommittee

*How can we address the waitlisting, course-is-closed problem?*

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# Cornell in Washington

Responding to Orders & Directives

What should we be doing?

Conversation with President Hunter Rawlings  
and Provost Mike Kotlikoff