

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPEN SESSION REPORT SUMMARY

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2022

Date of Next Meeting: October 14, 2022

Committee Chair: Peter Bruns

Committee Members: Paula Collins, Elizabeth Graves '93, Melanie Hilley '93, Larry Leak '76, William Seale, Tuajuanda Jordan, Susan Dyer

Executive Staff: Jeff Byrd, Katie Gantz

Faculty Liaison: Libby Williams

Staff Liaison: John Spinicchia

Dashboard Metrics: N/A

Executive Summary:

Discussion Items

Faculty Senate Report

Dean of Faculty Report

Information Items

Minutes of February 4, 2022

Action Item(s) related to specific strategic goals as appropriate:

III.A.Recommendation to Approve 2022 Candidates for Graduation



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MAY 13, 2022**

**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Faculty Senate Report
 - B. Dean of Faculty Report
- III. ACTION ITEM**
 - A. Recommendation to Approve 2022 Candidates for Graduation
- IV. INFORMATION ITEM**
 - A. Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2022

The committee expects to close a portion of this meeting.

May 5, 2022

Report to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees
Elizabeth Nutt Williams, Faculty Senate President

The faculty continue to be engaged in teaching, scholarship/creative work, and service. In addition, we continue to work to implement the many changes the faculty approved earlier in the academic year. Despite much progress, there remain concerns, which I share with you below.

Academic Administrative Restructuring

After the faculty voted in January 2022 to approve Model 2.5 as a structure to guide academic administrative restructuring, we have been working with the members of the Academic Administrative Restructuring Implementation Team (AARIT) regarding the details of the model. There continue to be discussions over division composition, with new proposals coming forward to the AARIT for consideration. The AARIT decided to hold decisions about academic linkages between departments until fall, and the Faculty Senate recommended at its last meeting that the AARIT also consider delaying selection of division heads until fall. There were several reasons for this request, including: 1) there are continued negotiations over which disciplines should be in which divisions (some stemming from concerns about significant imbalances across divisions in terms of faculty numbers, numbers of student majors, and resource needs) making the identification of particular divisions heads difficult; 2) there are no divisional meetings scheduled in May and adding them may result in low turnout (given that faculty are administering final exams and grading in advance of commencement); and 3) the previous request of the faculty for a delay resulted in a productive use of time and a collaborative, well-supported report of the Academic Planning Committee and subsequent faculty vote. At the writing of this report, the recommendation had been delivered to the AARIT but no news of a decision had been shared.

The faculty remain committed to implementing a well-conceived model that addresses the goals set out for academic restructuring. However, it is also very important to the faculty not to rush the process but rather fully consider the range of good, creative ideas presented before making decisions about implementing details that will have long-lasting implications. From my own personal perspective, I feel that we have come a long way. Also from the perspective of someone who helped lead major change in the adoption of the core curriculum, I can say with certainty that gathering the creative input of our faculty and working to ensure broad support have resulted in exceptional ideas and a sense of shared mission. We remain poised to do so again.

Change in Leadership

The faculty were informed by President Jordan on April 26, 2022 (at the last faculty meeting of the semester) that Provost Wick will not be returning to his position post-sabbatical as had been previously assumed. Although the faculty were not on the whole surprised by this news (as we had not heard from Provost Wick in some time), we remain concerned and saddened. We miss him and wish him well.

I do want to add, however, that the faculty appreciate Katie Gantz and Jeff Byrd for their work and continued support of the faculty. The Faculty Senate is particularly appreciative of their collegial and collaborative work with the faculty, as we recognize the complexities of the issues with which they are tasked.

Communication and Shared Governance

I also personally want to thank the members of the Faculty Senate for carrying a heavy load this entire academic year. We have felt the strain of balancing the perspectives of the faculty, the administration, and the Board in our work on important curricular and policy issues. We also want to recognize the work of the Staff Senate and our shared desire for clear communication and meaningful collaboration.

Last but certainly not least I want to recognize our students and their own desire for clear communication and engaged participation in the important decisions before us. The faculty are delighted to see our seniors graduating and to participate in encouraging our next class of students to join us at SMCM. One of our ongoing concerns for our students, however, is the continuing impact of the pandemic on both physical and mental health. As a psychologist, I am particularly concerned about the current lack of resources for students' mental health needs and urge our institution to provide more support and infrastructure for our students' wellness.

As always, I welcome your questions and input and look forward to speaking with you in person.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Nutt Williams, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate President

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

REPORT OF THE INTERIMS DEAN OF FACULTY AND VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

(See OnBoard for supporting material.)

Teach-out plans

As noted in the October report describing the effects of TF3, programs that were either immediately discontinued or planned for sunseting applied to the incoming class of 2021. For AY20 students who had already declared majors or minors in the affected programs, the College prepared “teach-out” plans to follow through on our commitment to delivering a full four-year path to degree completion by spring 2024 for all remaining majors and minors. Coursework in those programs continued as planned this year as led by our faculty. In the case of German, a total of 5 students either continued or completed their coursework through our ongoing MOU with University of Maryland Baltimore City.

Updates to the LEAD Curriculum implementation: Humanities in the CORE

As noted in the May 2021 report, prioritization disproportionately affected programs in the Humanities. A recommended outcome also included a revision to the CORE 101 curriculum to invest in a Humanities-based experience, and with it, a commitment to a meaningful curricular presence for the humanities in the education of our students. As discussed in the October meeting, a fuller assessment of our present CORE 101 seminars revealed that the most pressing need was intensified writing instruction -- critical for students in their first semester. Last summer, our faculty work on intensifying writing instruction in the CORE 101 seminars had already begun, and continued through the fall in advance of the development of Humanities in the Core. From lessons learned with past curricular launches, the content is best delivered when framed on top of a well-developed and unified pedagogy (in this case, writing skills).

This spring, Academic Affairs assembled a workgroup of five humanities faculty and chaired by Associate Dean of Curriculum Christine Wooley to discuss reshaping the Core as an exploration of Humanities approaches. Included in the charge will be a report by the end of June that addresses the following:

1. Define the humanities focus of the course, with attention to elements that will create a common experience for students, and to the ways the course will complement (and not substitute for) humanities coursework in specific programs.

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

2. Incorporate the writing instruction protocol developed by the Writing and Speaking Center leadership.
3. Identify shared course norms and learning outcomes.
4. Assess staffing needs and suggest possible model(s) for staffing and supporting a humanities-focused core seminar program.
5. Produce at least two sections of Core 101 to pilot the core humanities model in fall 2022.
6. Create an implementation plan and identify training needs.

The fourth point has already generated important discussion within the workgroup and among the broader faculty with both ideological and logistical considerations. While the Humanities in the Core is intended to give humanities disciplines pride of place within the curriculum -- and a guaranteed point of contact with our students to engage them as future majors/minors -- it may likewise be viewed as if our humanities programs are being “relegated” to the Core as a prioritization consolation prize. There are other concerns about what it would mean to structurally prohibit faculty from other disciplines from teaching CORE 101, many of whom also are eager to build inroads with new students. We are as yet uncertain of the staffing implications of this initiative, and will look to the workgroup for guidance and a selection of models to consider.

Faculty Hires

In addition to new hires in Marine Science and Business Administration, the Director of the Library search has successfully concluded with the appointment of Amanda VerMeulen at the rank of associate librarian with tenure.

Regarding faculty hiring, also of note this year is a strong departmental interest in lecturer positions, a rank that has been minimally in use in an ad hoc fashion, but now has gained footing with its official inclusion in the revised 2019 bylaws. In conversation with the department chairs, Academic Affairs has been working to find some tenable intersection among staffing needs, budgetary constraints, and by no means least on this list, the desire to recognize and better compensate the work of many long standing adjunct instructors. These colleagues have proven themselves excellent teachers and committed college community members.

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

Four programs have successfully requested positions at the rank of lecturer to take effect immediately in the fall. The College currently has two part-time lecturers in the English department who predate the revised 2019 bylaws; joining these instructors in August 2022 will be full-time lecturers in Educational Studies, Chemistry, and Dance as well as another $\frac{3}{4}$ time lecturer in English. Lecturers are not tenured or tenure-track positions, although they are recognized as peers to tenure-track faculty and are compensated in ways similar to visiting faculty. Lecturers teach a 4/4 load with no service responsibilities and minimal research expectations; they have initial three-year contracts subject to review and renewal, and may advance in rank (lecturer, senior lecturer, master lecturer) with longer contract terms and merit raises. This continuity provides a context in which the lecturers can forge relationships with the students, contribute expertise within our curriculum, and provide critical staffing help for departments struggling to adequately serve the needs of the LEAD curriculum, encompassing breadth requirements, CORE 101, and CORE-P.

Ross Fellows - Cluster Hire update

The Ross Fellows hires for tenure-track faculty during AY22 have been made in Anthropology and Psychology. The searches in Computer Science, Biology, and Economics did not yield successful hires. The renewed Biology and Computer Science searches will join three new approved Ross Fellows searches this fall in Math, History, and Environmental Studies. In a debrief with the Economics search committee, they attribute the failed search to two central factors. First, the number of new PhDs in Economics who opt to enter the professoriate is very low; an even smaller number are new PhDs who specialize in pedagogy supporting underrepresented groups. Our pool was quite small. Second, some candidates expressed concern about being outwardly identified with the Ross Fellows initiative, worrying they would be less competitive for external research grants, or evaluated more stringently at tenure for the success and retention outcomes of our students of color (the latter is decidedly not the case). We will renew the tenure-track search in Economics next fall, but not as part of the Ross Fellows initiative. As is our expectation for other disciplines, the collective pedagogical expertise we build from our Ross Fellows will become the base from which we'll be able to circulate new teaching strategies through all programs.

Business Administration major

- **Program Approval** - After the Board meeting in February the paperwork was submitted to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for approval of the new program and addition of the new program to our program array. Final approval from MHEC has been received and the major will be included in the 2022-2023 Academic Year course catalog.

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

Admitted first-year students have been made aware that the major will be available to them.

- **Hire of the Inaugural William Seale Professor of Business** - An offer was made to and accepted by Dr. Silvio Borrero; his expedited tenure review has been successfully completed, and pending the finalization of required hiring procedures, he will be appointed at the rank of full professor.

Marine Science major

- **Student Interest** - Paid deposits of the students who expressed an interest in marine science total 30 students. This puts marine science as the third most popular major of the entering class, only behind biology (75) and psychology (42). It should be noted that 61 students did not specify an intended major. Only 5 marine science majors were originally projected for the entering class in Fall 2022.
- **Personnel** - Dr. Elka Porter has been hired as the physical oceanographer in our marine science program. She comes to the College with years of experience working on marine and estuarine systems, especially the Chesapeake Bay. Her expedited tenure review has been successfully completed, and Dr. Porter will be appointed at the rank of associate professor.
- **Teaching lab** - A space has been identified on the first floor of Schaefer Hall to house the new marine science lab. Minor demolition is necessary and is planned for Summer 2022. Renovation of the space is being planned for the 2022-23 academic year with the first classes being held in the new marine science lab in fall 2023.
- **Research Vessels** - Bids have been received for the near-shore vessel and purchase is underway. The design and RFP are being developed for the larger research vessel.

Performing Arts major

- **Program Approval** - After the Board meeting in February the paperwork was submitted to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for approval of the new program and addition of the new program to our program array. Final approval from MHEC has been received and the program will be included in the 2022-2023 Academic Year course catalog.

Academic Administrative Restructuring update

- The Faculty Senate appointed three faculty members (Kathy Koch, Liza Gijanto, and Michael Taber) to work with Interim Dean Gantz and Interim Vice President Byrd as part of the Academic Administrative Restructuring Implementation Team.

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

- Updates on progress since the last Board meeting include:
 - The programs that will reside in each of the 4 Divisions have been assigned.
 - A position description of the Division Head position has been defined and shared with the faculty.
 - A position description of the Department Chair position has been defined and shared with the faculty.
 - Final decision of which departments will share a Dept Chair is still pending and will be fully defined by the middle of September 2022.
 - A call for Division Heads has gone out and appointments are expected to be made by the end of May. These individuals will serve in an advisory role during the academic year 2022-23 and will assume their full position responsibilities on August 1, 2023.
 - Newly appointed Division Heads will undergo training during the academic year 2022-2023 and, in their advisory role, will help in defining budgets and schedules within their Division for FY24.

Class Scheduling Matrix: updates on Engaged Learning

The College's AY22-23 class schedule has been submitted under the new course matrix and will be implemented in the fall. As discussed, the slightly shortened in-class component will be supplemented with one hour per week of an out-of-class, instructor-designed element called "Engaged Learning." This component may take a broad range of forms depending on the discipline; in all cases, the goal is to incorporate instructional experiences that bridge the in-class content with equally compelling out-of-class work, whether as an individual experience, a group collaboration, or an instructor-led consultation.

Departments have discussed the new Engaged Learning component as facilitated by Dir. Samantha Elliott of the Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning. To ensure accountability with our students, incoming faculty, and external accreditors, all departments will include focused conversations at their annual retreats about Engaged Learning as it might take shape within their curriculum; likewise, faculty will include statements on fall syllabi describing the instructor's overarching plans for Engaged Learning (its function and mission) as it will relate to that course.

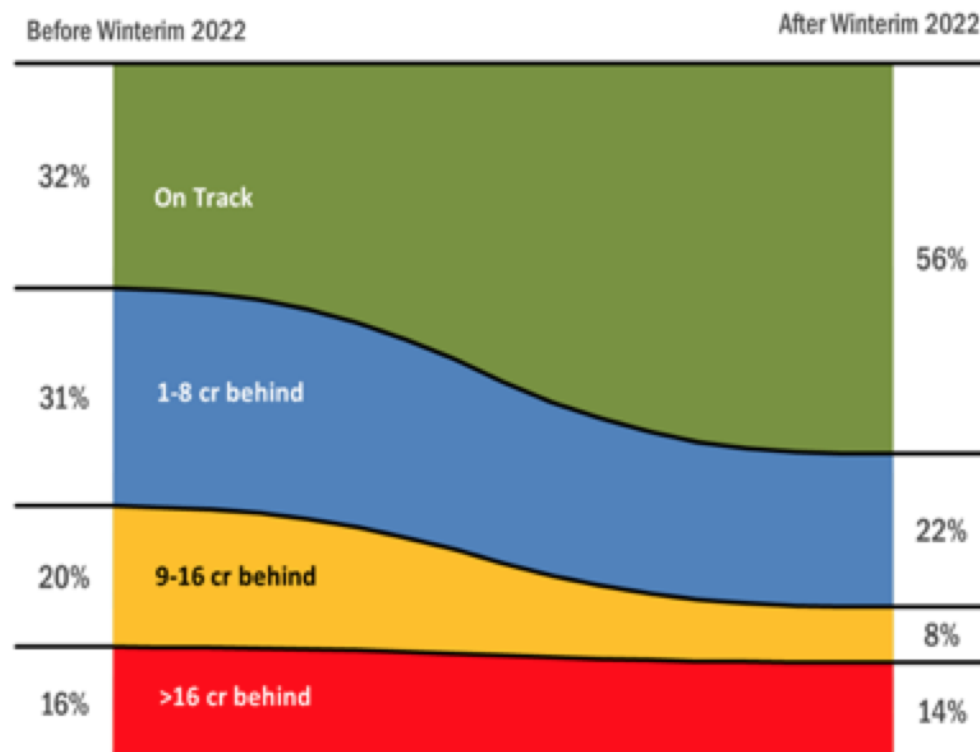
Substantive Change and Distance Learning

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education has accepted the College's request to have distance learning included in its accreditation. This means that the College is able to utilize distance learning as a mode of instruction going forward for both the Winterim and Summer sessions.

Winterim 2022 Update

Winterim 2022 was a success with 135 students taking classes. Many students use the Winterim courses to get back on track towards a 4-year graduation time frame, as seen in the graph below. As Winterim becomes a normalized part of our curriculum, more students will utilize this opportunity to either get back on track or push toward an early graduation.

Progress Toward 4-Year Graduation



ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

Academic Program Snapshots

- Individual Academic Program Snapshots that include metrics of equity, effectiveness, and efficiency have been developed for each major, minor, and program. These snapshots (provided in the appendices of this board report) will be provided to the individual programs for review and comment after this board meeting. In addition, the Provost's Office will review all of the snapshots to guide the discussion of how the Provost's Office can help support each program. The expected use going forward is that beginning in the Fall of 2023, these snapshots will help provide context for a conversation between the program, the Division Head, and the Provost's Office. Findings from these yearly reviews will help shape support and resources necessary to work toward program and College goals. The annual timeline is informed by yearly due dates for new curricular proposals, line requests, and budget review. It is expected that the programs will receive their snapshots each January, providing the context for a conversation between the program and the Division Head during the spring semester. The Division Head will provide a short narrative to the Provost by the end of the spring semester regarding any insights gleaned from the snapshots. The Provost will review these narratives and the snapshots with the Division Head during the summer/early fall to help chart a plan for the curricular and, in consultation with executive leadership, resource needs of the program as a standard step in the next budgeting and hiring cycle. An overview of the findings and plans for enhancements and/or modifications will be provided to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board at its October meeting.

Track and Field

- The Track and Field team had a successful first indoor season and is now competing in its first outdoor season. The team held its first home track meet on April 2nd and it was a rousing success! The outdoor throwing area is now fully functional. To add to the excitement, thrower Ethan Carpenter has already thrown well enough in the hammer throw to qualify for the All-Atlantic Region Track and Field Conference Outdoor Championships May 18-19 in Bethlehem, PA.
- Recruitment of new students - From the estimates prior to implementing the team there were to be 12 new students brought in for Fall 22 and the total team size would be 25. The team reports being on target to meet the 12 new students for Fall 22. The team (both men's and women's) had 31 members this spring season. With only 7 members graduating there would be 36 members on the team next year. Therefore the team is meeting the admissions goals put forward for the program.

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

Sailing

- The co-ed sailing team has qualified for the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Team Race National Championship on May 16-18, hosted by Tulane University in New Orleans, La. They have also qualified for the Fleet Race National Championships on May 19-22, at Tulane.

Women's Lacrosse

- The women's lacrosse team has won the regular season conference title and will compete in the conference tournament during the weekend of May 6th and 7th. If they win the tournament they will get an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

Men's Lacrosse

- The men's lacrosse team finished second in the conference and will compete in the conference tournament during the weekend of May 6th and 7th. If they win the tournament they will get an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

Women's Tennis

- The women's tennis team won the regular season and conference tournament titles. St. Mary's has earned a spot in the United East Conference/North Atlantic Conference Crossover Match on Sunday, May 8, in Latham, N.Y. The Seahawks will face Husson University, who won the NAC women's tennis championship, with the winner securing an automatic bid into the 2022 NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Championship Tournament.

Men's Tennis

- The men's tennis team won the regular season conference and conference tournament championships. St. Mary's has earned a spot in the United East Conference/North Atlantic Conference Crossover Match on Sunday, May 8, in Latham, N.Y. The Seahawks will face SUNY Delhi, who won the NAC men's tennis championship, with the winner securing an automatic bid into the 2022 NCAA Division III Men's Tennis Championship Tournament.

Women's Rowing

- The women's rowing team won their first Mid-Atlantic Rowing Championships. The team has claimed the conference's automatic qualifying bid to the 2022 NCAA Division



III Women's Rowing Championship on May 27-29 in Sarasota, Fla.

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 13, 2022

ACTION ITEM III.A.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE 2022 CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

On recommendation of the Interim Dean of Faculty and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, and with the concurrence of the faculty, the candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts in Teaching are recommended for approval.

RATIONAL

By action of the Maryland State Legislature in 1964 St. Mary's College of Maryland was authorized to become a public, four-year college with its own Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is vested with all the powers, rights and privileges attending the responsibility of full governance of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The College Bylaws enumerate the duties, powers, and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, officers of the College and the faculty.

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 4, 2022

Status of Minutes: Approved April 8, 2022

Committee Chair: Peter Bruns

Committee Members: Paula Collins, Susan Dyer, Elizabeth Graves '93, Melanie Hilley '93, Tuajuanda Jordan, Larry Leak '76, William Seale

Executive Staff: Jeff Byrd, Katie Gantz

Faculty Liaison: Libby Williams

Staff Liaison: John Spinicchia

Trustees/President (Present In-Person): Nick Abrams '99, Joshua Ajanaku '22, John Bell '95, Alice Bonner, Donny Bryan '73, Peter Bruns, Paula Collins, Susan Dyer, Gail Harmon, Sven Holmes, President Jordan, Doug Mayer '04, Danielle Troyan '92, Ray Wernecke

Trustees (Zoom): Carlos Alcazar, Peg Duchesne, Elizabeth Graves '95, Melanie Hilley '92, Larry Leak '76, Brayan Ruiz Lopez, Gretchen Phillips, William Seale, John Wobensmith '93

Non-Trustees: Betsy Barreto, Geoffrey Bowers, Kelsey Bush, Carolyn Curry, David Hautanen, Jerri Holland, Paul Pusecker, Mai Savelle, Jenny Sivak, Anna Yates

Executive Summary

Academic Affairs Committee Chair Peter Bruns called the meeting to order at 12:51 p.m.

Faculty Senate Report

Faculty Senate President Libby Williams provided a brief update to her written report. Faculty voted on Academic Restructuring and supported the model which was considered the compromise model - a blend across several of the introduced models that best supports the culture at St. Mary's College. The Faculty Senate and faculty worked together to find a suitable arrangement that would be the best fit for the College. Two new majors, Business Administration and Performing Arts, were approved by the Faculty. Chair Bruns asked if the Committee should be concerned that the faculty did not unanimously vote to pass the two new majors. Libby reassured the Committee that Business major passed with a reasonable margin; but that the votes reflect what has been more contentious and less contentious among the faculty. Now that the vote has been taken, the faculty will fully support both majors. Chair Dyer commended the Faculty Senate on their accomplishments. .

Dean of Faculty Report

Interim Dean of Faculty Katie Gantz, and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Jeff Byrd, jointly presented their VP Report to the board. Dr. Gantz announced that cluster hiring is

ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

underway and that the cohort has been named the Ross Fellows, after Professor Joe Ross Jr., who was the first African American professor on staff at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Dr. Gantz then reported on the New Scheduling Matrix and strategy for implementation of the new timetables. The Committee asked if professors would be required to work with students during the extra hour outside of the classroom. Dr. Gantz said it would be up to the discretion of the professor but the emphasis would be on the student learning experience. Dr. Byrd then briefed the Board on the changes to distance learning regulations and requirements for MSCHE. Dr. Byrd updated the Board on the details of the Business Administration major and Performing Arts Major, as well as the progress of Athletics at the College. Dr. Byrd and President Jordan thanked Committee Member Bill Seale for his support of the Business Administration major in name and resources to hire new candidates. Dr. Byrd then shared further details on the plans for Academic Restructuring at the College.

Action Item:

III.A. Recommendation to approve Business Administration major

III.B. Recommendation to approve Performing Arts major

Committee Action Taken/Action in Progress:

The proposed action items were approved by the Academic Affairs Committee at its meeting on February 4, 2022.

Recommendation to the Board:

The Academic Affairs Committee recommended approval of these action items by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on February 5, 2022.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the open session and move into closed session. The open session meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.