

MEMO

Date: January 23, 2023
To: Steering Committee for Computing, Data Science and Applied Science (CDS) Initiative
From: Peggy Agouris, Provost
Subj: Charge to Steering Committee
CC: Suzanne Raitt, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences
David Yalof, Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs

Building on the work of the Design Team, which worked for several months in 2022 and produced a proposal on “Establishing a New School at W&M”, the Steering Committee is tasked with exploring the possibilities for an autonomous academic entity for the computing, data and applied sciences at William & Mary. The goals as noted in the proposal are to “expand W&M’s excellence in teaching and research in the rapidly evolving fields of computer science, data science and the applied sciences; provide world-class, well-funded graduate research programs”, “increase ability in these programs to attract and retain exceptional faculty, staff, and students; expand the level of visibility, research, national attention, and external funding in these fields.”

The Steering Committee will refine the model of the proposed new academic entity by considering implementational aspects and financial parameters, as well as relevant advantages and disadvantages of possible structures. It is important that a new unit for computing, data science and applied science supports the participating departments, while at the same time preserving the ability of W&M to continue to deliver an excellent liberal arts and sciences education to our students and to integrate undergraduate programs with world-class research and outstanding graduate programs.

To this end, the committee is charged with:

- Researching and analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of different models for an autonomous, more visible structure for computing, data science and applied science, and assessing suitability of these models for W&M;
- Working with the W&M Budget Office and the Associate Dean for Finance & Administration in A&S to generate financial models to support different structures;
- Examining the impact of a new unit on W&M by interacting with relevant constituency groups and addressing the opportunities and challenges that will be identified through this process.

The committee’s report, which is due to the Provost by the end of the Spring 2023 semester, will provide data as described above, and will discuss options for moving forward.

The Steering Committee will comprise two subcommittees:

Subcommittee I: Unit-Level Operational Considerations for the Proposed New School

The task of Subcommittee I is to assess the operational requirements of the proposed new school, including possible structure(s), financial and HR needs, and corresponding academic and implementational implications.

Chair: David Yalof

Members: Chon Abraham, Chris Carone, Sarah Day, Evgenia Smirni, Matt Smith, Tony Stefanidis

Subcommittee II: Campus-Wide Impact Analysis of Opportunities and Challenges

The task of Subcommittee II is to assess how the new school is expected to function within the broader context of W&M’s academic mission, collect feedback from departments and programs that are particularly interested in collaborating in more depth with the new school (opportunities), identify broader issues that may result from the establishment of a new school (challenges), and propose mechanisms to pursue these opportunities and address the challenges.

Chair: Suzanne Raitt

Members: Liz Barnes, Eric Bradley, Jason Chen, Marjy Friedrichs, Iria Giuffrida, Matthias Leu, Rani Mullen