

SGA Open Forum - MGT Consulting Report Student Notes

11/3/2021

Academic Realignment

Pg. 24 - Recommendation #1: Combine the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Science, and the College of Geosciences to create a new College of Arts and Sciences.

- Negative for geoscience: concerning if have separate schools and then just a “junk drawer” group of the rest of colleges
 - If Geoscience gets dissolved not have a strong standing in
- Needs to make sure that current student are not affected negatively
 - Grandfather everyone in degree program already only effect freshman class
- Makes sense to do Science and Geoscience but liberal arts does not make sense
- Geoscience should go to Engineering if tie together
- Liberal Arts is influenced positively but Science is not helped and the program has money taken away from it

Pg. 29 - Recommendation #4: Elevate and expand the Bush School of Government and Public Service to be a highly visible and accessible part of the university portfolio through significant investment and a merger with the Department of Political Science.

- Great addition and will add to international studies and help with growth of knowledge of topic and major
- Some have a desire in international studies if degree could reflect Bush school

Pg. 30 - Recommendation #5: Create the new Institute of Biological Life Sciences which will contain the Department of Biology and the Biomedical Sciences Program.

- College of Science- may not need separation just all together
- Need to make sure other BEMS majors feel good about this change

Pg. 32 - Recommendation #6: Merge the University Libraries into the newly created College of Arts and Sciences and create a new Department of Library Sciences.

- Good addition
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Student Affairs

Pg. 46 - Recommendation #2: Align student organization management practices to ensure transparency and accountability.

- Wording is confusing, since the organizations have been traditionally run only by current students. Could be negative if the administration is stepping in to make decisions. It could mess up tradition and spirits.
- If faculty given control of organizations, lose students visions and person opinions
- Believe it would be best for students to learn and earn how to be a good leader
- It could change the values of the student organizations when they University gets involved based on what they think should be done
 - Should be more talked about and make sure students rights are not taken away
- Positive- have more advising in organizations to work together
- Many faculty members may be confused on how decisions and activities are done which will lead to a change in the goal and mission of organization when faculty gets involved
- It is better to learn and grow from mistakes now while have opportunities
 - Extra oversight takes away opportunities and student leaders need to learn how to grow
- The University needs to not be static in dealing with matters and able to change over time
- Freedom of speech issue and the student organizations may not be able to develop in the way it should

Pg. 47 - Recommendation #3: Integrate Student Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services into Texas A&M Health and establish a dedicated unit to focus on providing holistic student health.

- Beneficial to be able to talk to a mental health professional on campus
 - More funding to be providing to this place
 - The services combining would be beneficial to be more aware and marketing
 - Communication should be improved
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Provost Office

Pg. 14 - Recommendation #2 Centralize undergraduate academic advising

- Negative- not know the department as well as someone that is specializing and been in the area for awhile
- Positive- if students know how to take classes they do not need it
 - Should be optional for students to do
- Negative change- every person is unique and an advisor that is specific to each major
 - Specialized care helps build relationships and students do not want to lose what they have built up
- Negative- location wise the advising is close to where you classes are
 - More inconvenient to have to relocate
- If cost saving- it will be more difficult to find an opportunity to talk to an advisor
- Main time need an advisor is through registration and it would not meet the needs of the students
- If build program up it would be beneficial and if cut the advising office it would impact our students since we are a larger university
- Centralized advising for freshman and sophomore students maybe specific for juniors and seniors
- Need to clear up what they mean by centralized

Pg. 22 - Recommendation #4: Invest in cultural centers, including a performing arts center, a museum and hospitality center, and campus gardens

- Positive change to serve the community and students
- Students and community will feel more connected
 - Community may want to support
- Help with interactions in community and perspective students
- We need to promote the school and the traditions
- Shows where campus has been and where it is going
- There is not invective for Aggies to stay here
 - It would build the community to be less of a college town
 - It would be beneficial economically

Other

Page 72 Information Technology - Recommendation #1 Consolidate IT across campus

- It would not be well for all the colleges since the staff is prepared for the different situations that the college needs
- There would not be enough needs met

Overall Thoughts

- It makes sense and mostly positive but needs some help
- Themes consolidation - it is good for communication within departments
 - It does not need to limit staff and be consolidate to cut cost when we are getting bigger
 - Still keeping personal relationships within students
- Make sure community is not seen as just a number
- The smaller colleges have same resources as bigger communities but more of a community - promotes recruitment of more students
- Strange that some of the items were not heard of till now
- There are some concerns that there is some bias within the report and 3rd party company
- Consulting firm does not understand A&M's culture, identity, and traditions
 - Seems that the traditions are a strength and a weakness at the same time