Merger, Reduction or Discontinuance of an Academic Unit

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The procedures outlined here are not meant to prescribe the administrative procedures for the entire process, but rather are a subset, i.e. those procedures affecting faculty, staff and students, that must be part of any such process.

Definitions:
• “Academic unit” refers to a department or college within the university.
• “Program reduction” refers to the elimination of part of an academic unit, such as a sequence of courses, a track or specialty, or a major program of study within an academic unit.
• “Merger” refers to the joining of the faculty of two or more academic units through administrative action, one consequence of which could be program reduction.
• “Discontinuance” refers to the elimination of an academic unit.
Merger Committee

- An ad-hoc committee (referred to hereafter as the Committee) under the auspices of the Faculty Council will represent the faculty as a whole in cases where merger, reduction or discontinuance could result in significant impact on faculty appointments.

- The function of the Committee will be to oversee the procedures laid out below, to ensure that they are followed in a fair and consistent manner.

- The Committee shall consist of nine tenured faculty members, with five members appointed by the Faculty Council and four appointed by the Provost.
Procedure and Schedule

• The exact description of the procedure to be followed during a merger, reduction or discontinuance is still under discussion among the Faculty Council.
• Faculty Council will consider the procedure in more detail at its next meeting (Dec. 17).
• It is hoped that a final draft will be distributed to the faculty for a vote at the February 2010 faculty meeting.