


MEMORANDUM

TO: Helen Chen, Senior Vice Provost for Instructional Program, Chair
Alina Chertock, Chair, Department Head Advisory Committee
Rob Dunn, Senior Vice Provost for University Interdisciplinary Programs
Jeremiah Feducia, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor, Director of
Undergraduate Programs, Integrative Sciences Initiative
Kim Grainger, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence
Pierre Gremaud, Associate Dean, The Graduate School
Peter Harries, Dean, The Graduate School
David Hinks, Dean, Wilson College of Textiles
Alun Lloyd, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Science
Melissa Pasquinelli, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Natural Resources
Sid Thakur, Executive Director, Global One Health Academy

FROM: Warwick Arden
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost 

SUBJECT: Interdisciplinary Academic Programs Collaboration Advisory Committee

DATE: August 5, 2024

As NC State continues to advance interdisciplinary academic programs, we recognize the need to formalize collaborations across departments. Building upon the foundations laid out in the "Strengthening University-Wide Interdisciplinarity Task Force Report," which can be found [here](#), this advisory committee will develop an Inter-departmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) framework and guidelines to further these efforts and codify expectations of those devoting time and resources to these critical efforts.

The following objectives will guide this committee:

1. **Framework Development:** Construct a detailed MOU template to create a sustainable and flexible framework for interdisciplinary collaboration on academic programs, integrating insights from the aforementioned task force report. This framework should clearly outline the cooperation between colleges and departments.
2. **Faculty Engagement:** Specify management and evaluation protocols for faculty contributions to interdisciplinary academic programs within their current workload, aligning with reappointment, tenure, and promotion criteria.
3. **Professorship of Distinction within Interdisciplinary Academic Programs:** Formulate guidelines and MOU templates to aid advancement teams in securing and advocating for distinct professorships within interdisciplinary academic programs. These documents should clearly define faculty roles and responsibilities, ensuring they align with and enhance collaboration between interdisciplinary academic programs and their primary departmental affiliations, creating a mutually beneficial situation.

4. **Financial Planning:** Formulate financial strategies, including faculty time buyouts and incentives, to effectively promote and support interdisciplinary academic initiatives. Recommend financial models encouraging program development and enrollment growth.
5. **Governance Structure:** Establish clear governance roles, determining whether Department Heads, Associate Deans, or Deans will oversee the execution of these agreements and the commitments they contain.

The committee is expected to submit recommendations and the MOU templates to me by the end of the fall semester of 2024. The committee chair will give me status updates during the deliberation periods to review assumptions, approaches and recommendations to ensure the work is staying on target.

This work is vital for enhancing the scope and impact of our interdisciplinary academic programs. Your expertise and dedication are crucial to the success of this endeavor. I appreciate your commitment to advancing our university's mission through enhanced interdisciplinary collaboration.

I have asked Senior Vice Provost Helen Chen to chair this committee. Please confirm your willingness to participate by the end of the day, Friday, August 9 via email with a cc to Helen Chen and we will schedule an initial meeting to discuss this charge.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and continued leadership.