



Adrian College

DATE: August 29, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement on Academic Departments

Adrian College has not eliminated any academic departments, including majors or minors. The College administration always works with the Board of Trustees and the College faculty to consider effective and efficient options for continued organization, reorganization and delivery of academic offerings for students.

Per faculty union collective bargaining provisions, such considerations require advanced notice and communication. This must be done in writing and one year in advance regardless of whether changes will ultimately be made.

The consideration of changing, eliminating, or reimagining underperforming departments and then reshaping them and revitalizing the disciplines into a more efficient and effective departmental organizational structure is not “abandoning the liberal arts” or “eliminating the humanities.” Our hope would be that none of these majors, classes, or departments will be eliminated. But Adrian College, and nearly every institution throughout the country, needs to look at efficiencies that can make college more affordable for the next one-hundred years.

Part of this discussion that we will be engaged in with the faculty this year may involve shifting major and minors into broader departmental categories. This is not “abandoning the liberal arts” or “eliminating the humanities.”

A department with very few students and a handful of courses is not reflective of the type of innovative future we envision for our students as we pursue the future of Adrian College. We can do better.

The creation of the Ribbons of Excellence and associated critical research which guide and inspire our academic framework is one example of the investments we’ve made in recent years to support the liberal arts and humanities.

The creation of ten Institutes specifically focused on providing thought leadership in areas such as ethics, law & public policy, study abroad, and cross-cultural studies are additional examples

investments we have made to support the liberal arts.

The creation of the Adrian College Student Symphony Orchestra, trips abroad for our various student choirs and the scheduled renovation of Mahan Hall, including a new art gallery also highlights our ongoing and future commitment.

In recent days various individuals have published internal memoranda out of context via social media and suggested to the public that the College administration is eliminating programs without allowing for a committee of faculty and administration to work together to present an alternative structure. The committee of faculty and administration was announced prior to the memoranda shared via social media. This is unfortunate and irresponsible and unfair to the future work of the committee.

Given the changes taking place nationally in higher education, and the added challenges presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic, it would be irresponsible to ignore new realities and consider options to ensure the long term future of the College.

Finally, we urge all of us to continue the journey to creating the next innovative and future-serving iteration of departmental structure and academic framework. We strive to develop a benchmark curriculum not for the days of old, nor for merely today. Rather, we strive to create a curriculum for the next decade ahead. "Save the AC Humanities?" Indeed. Let's save the AC Humanities by creating a relevant, vibrant and vital structure capable of carrying us into a rewarding future.