



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

OFFICE FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

January 29, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Amy Ward, President, Faculty Senate
Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

FROM: Nancy S. Barrett *NSB*

RE: Merger of SLIS with the College of Communication

This is in response to your memorandum of January 28 requesting additional information on the merger of SLIS with the College of Communication. I am responding in the order listed in your memorandum.

1. There were very few written communications relating to this merger. In fact, there were no written responses from faculty affected by the proposed merger. However, I am attaching all written correspondence in my file, which includes one e-mail message from Dr. Lowell Kispert, communication with three individuals: Ms. Lee C. Ketcham, Ms. Sybil Bullock, and Mr. Robert Lane, who visited me to discuss the proposed merger and whose communication and my replies I have attached, and, finally there is a letter that Mr. Lee Pike sent to the members of the Library School Association with a copy to me that I am also attaching. All of that is the extent of the correspondence that I can find either in my written file or the e-mail file.
2. Concerning tenure, promotion, and salary prospects for all faculty affected by the proposed merger, pending tenure and promotion reviews for the current academic year will proceed for SLIS as a free-standing entity. As for subsequent years, I have requested the faculty involved to meet with Dean Cully Clark to discuss tenure, promotion, and salary procedures in the College of Communication. I am assuming that the faculty would be governed by whatever governance document currently exists in the College of Communication. I have asked Dean Clark to solicit from the faculty comments and suggestions regarding how the Library School might best be incorporated into the College's governance structure. I am assuming that the School would have the same status as a department; however, this is something that I think will involve some discussion before the merger is finalized. I am asking by copy of this memo for Interim Dean Osburn to provide you with information regarding whether or not any faculty will be coming up for promotion or tenure this fall. These files have not come to me yet and, consequently, I am not in a position to answer that question.

As regards the other questions regarding faculty reviews for salary increases, again I think that the faculty in SLIS will need to have some discussion with Dean Clark regarding how salary decisions will be made in the coming year. So far I have every reason to believe that these matters can be worked out amicably.

3. Yes, as far as I know all of the faculty in SLIS received copies of the relevant governance document, Principles and Procedures for Merger or Discontinuance of Academic Units. I also assume that this document is available to faculty in the College of Communication and will by copy of this memorandum remind them that the document is available upon request from Dean Clark.
4. I understand that Dean Ron Rogers has provided you with a list of the task force members.
5. The rationale for the merger is that I believe that the units will be strengthened by combining resources and by opening up avenues for faculty collaboration in curriculum development, teaching, and research. It will also streamline administration and release resources from administrative lines to add faculty and permanent support to the operating budget..
6. As for the physical and logistical implications of the merger, we are discussing plans for the relocation of the McClure Education Library from the current building into Gorgas Library and at that time to move SLIS into the facility now housing McClure. (The move of the Education Library into Gorgas had been in planning prior to my arrival at the University and was unrelated to the SLIS merger.) At the same time, we would upgrade the IITS facility currently housed in the Library and move that into the McClure facility as well as to establish an educational media facility that will enhance services to faculty who require assistance with the use of instructional technology, and to bring the educational media activity into spatial congruence with SLIS, which has an interest in supporting this activity. Dean Osburn has had several discussions with the Dean of Education regarding the relocation of the Education Library and, as far as I know, these plans have not been finalized. Clearly, a suitable place will need to be found in Gorgas Library for the relocation of the Education Library, and I am assuming that should such a move take place that we will have considerable input from all units involved.

NSB/dm

Attachment

- c: Dean Cully Clark
Dean Charles Osburn
Dean Ron Rogers
Faculty, SLIS
Faculty, College of Communication