



# William & Mary Arts & Sciences

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Date: November 15, 2023

To: Future of Arts & Sciences Coordinating Committee

From: Suzanne Raitt, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences

Subj: Future of Arts & Sciences

CC: Peggy Agouris (Provost)

Arts & Sciences (A&S) finds itself at a crossroads in 2023. Leadership transitions, the profound changes caused by the Covid pandemic, and the creation of a new school of Data, Applied and Computer Science and Physics, make this an opportune time to reflect on our future direction and where we want to be in five and in ten years.

Planning in A&S has most often unfolded in parallel with university-wide strategic planning. The most recent comprehensive formal plan for A&S was developed in relation to the “Grand Challenges” identified in the William & Mary wide strategic plan of 2010. Vision 2026, the current strategic plan for the university, includes three specific actions for A&S, two of which are relatively self-contained (a Humanities Innovation Hub and a Graduate Center) and one which is more wide-ranging: “Highlight the important role of Arts & Sciences in advancing the liberal arts mission of W&M through transformational scholarship and research and life-changing undergraduate and graduate education.” The final A&S action is an invitation to articulate our identity and our aspirations, mindful of the central and distinctive role played by A&S within the ecosystem of the university.

The Future of A&S Coordinating Committee is charged with collecting responses to, feedback on, and thoughts about the questions below, and any others that emerge in the course of conversation. They will consult as widely as possible, and invite feedback in as many different formats as possible, with all relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and senior leadership.

1. Do we want to be the “College” of Arts & Sciences at William & Mary?
2. Do we want vision and mission statements, and if so, what ideas are you hearing about what should be in them?
3. How representative, effective and efficient are our operational structures? How could they be improved to serve our needs better?
4. How representative, effective and efficient are our governance structures? How could they be improved?
5. Would A&S benefit from internal re-structuring (for example, schools or divisions within a College or overall A&S umbrella)? If so, what should the new structure look like?

A preliminary report is due from the committee to the Dean by May 31, 2024. The report should sort and summarize feedback and suggest next steps where action is needed. If necessary, an implementation team will follow up on recommendations from the committee.