



MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Richard L. Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Williamson'.

Date: April 25, 2012

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2011-52(B) – Establishment of Departments within the School of Communication

At its April 18, 2012 meeting, the Faculty Senate unanimously approved the School of Communication's proposal to form departments within the School. The four departments will be: Cinema and Interactive Media, Communication Studies, Journalism and Media Management, and Strategic Communication.

The supporting materials are enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

RW/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Gregory Shepherd, Dean, School of Communication
Paul Driscoll, Vice Dean Academic Affairs, School of Communication

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate #2011-52(B) – Establishment of Departments within the School of Communication

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED: DSuh DATE: 4/30/12
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: DEAN SHEPHERD

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL of
COMMUNICATION



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MEMORANDUM

March 21, 2012

TO: Richard Williamson, Chair
Faculty Senate

FROM: Gregory J. Shepherd, Dean
School of Communication

RE: School of Communication Departmentalization – Executive Summary and Dean's
Endorsement



On February 24, 2012, the faculty of the School of Communication voted unanimously to departmentalize, and I enthusiastically support this decision. While growth in size of the School over the past 27 years has presented real challenges to managing the enterprise, the decision to form departments was driven by more lofty reasons than unwieldiness. First, both the faculty and I believe that decision-making in the School needs to be decentralized and brought closer to the faculty. The faculty need to be more fully invested in decisions about hiring, all manner of budget matters, merit reviews, and such—the sorts of decisions that come, structurally, with the formation of departments. Second, departmentalizing allows the School to merge programs in ways that will take advantage of its strengths and form academic units that can be leaders in communication education and research in the 21st century.

Our plan calls for the formation of four departments: Cinema and Interactive Media, Communication Studies, Journalism and Media Management, and Strategic Communication. Faculty recognize the need to rewrite School bylaws, revise curriculum, both to build a strong core for the School and to take advantage of the programmatic mergers that will take place, and determine governing structures in the new departments following the guidelines established by the Faculty Manual.

There will be few, if any, implications for the budget of the School (e.g., program directors received stipends prior to departmentalization and department chairs will receive stipends after), and so no budget for this restructuring needs to be approved by the Provost, and the library will feel no changes as a result of our departmentalization.

No new graduate or undergraduate programs are being proposed, so no approval is necessary from either the Graduate School Dean or Council, or from the Office of Planning, Institutional

Research, and Assessment (although we have informed them of our intent to departmentalize and they have responded that we need take no particular action with regard to their office).

I will employ the voting faculty of each of the four new departments as the initial consultative committees in appointing department chairs for each of the units.

I thank you, on behalf of the entire faculty of the School, for your consideration.

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



Office of Planning,
Institutional Research,
and Assessment

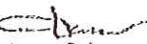
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 22, 2012

TO: Dr. Paul Driscoll
Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

FROM: David E. Wiles 
Executive Director of Assessment and Accreditation

SUBJECT: School of Communication Departmentalization

On 03/22/2012, the School of Communication submitted a proposal notifying our office of its intent to departmentalize the School. Unless there are modifications to the curricula, the change will not require notification to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Please feel free to contact our office should you have any further questions (305) 284-9431.

cc: Faculty Senate
Dean Scandura, Graduate School
Dr. Gregory Shepherd, Dean

From: Thomas LeBlanc <leblanc@miami.edu>
Date: Sun, 25 Mar 2012 21:32:26 -0400
To: Gregory Shepherd <shepherd@miami.edu>
Cc: Maria Freyre <m.freyre@miami.edu>
Subject: Memo of support for departmentalization of SoC

Dear Greg,

I am pleased to add my support for the decision of your faculty to organize the School of Communication into departments. This decision is a natural next step in the progression of the School. I have seen up close how decision making within the School, whether curricular decisions or tenure decisions, would benefit from a departmental structure and the decentralized form of decision making inherent in a departmental structure. I am especially supportive of the proposed departments, which better capture the future of the disciplines than does the existing program structure. Your proposal has my enthusiastic support.

Tom LeBlanc
Provost
University of Miami