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## Academic restructuring underway: new deans now being hired

**Five of six deans  
have been hired,  
and search contin-  
ues for one.**

**LADONNA  
LOGUE  
News Editor**

Meredith College's newly developed schools and academic departments are ready to be implemented beginning in the fall of 2003.

Departments formerly housing two or more majors will be separated based on their individual focuses.

The new departments are divided as follows: the School of the Arts will house the Department of Art, Department of Dance and Theatre, Department of Music, and the Center for Women in the Arts.

The School of Natural and Mathematical Sciences will encompass the Department of Biology and Health Sciences, Department of Chemistry, Physics and Geosciences, and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

The School of Humanities and Social

Sciences will hold the Department of Communication, Department of English, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Department of History and Politics, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Department of Psychology and the Department of Sociology and Social Work.

The School of Health and Human Sciences will include the Department of Health, Exercise and Sports Science as well as the Department of Human Environmental Sciences.

The School of Education and the School of Business will hold no separate departments.

By making the disciplines independent, the administration of the College is hoping to strengthen interdependence, communication and collaboration. Other goals include supporting interdisciplinary teaching and learning; emphasizing the importance of general education, the arts and sciences; and increasing the overall College's efficiency and effectiveness.

The new academic reor-

ganization calls for the development of new individual departments within the schools. The new departments being formed from this restructuring are the Department of Dance and Theatre, Department of Music and the Department of Communication.

Dr. John Creagh, professor of communication, said, "There was both levity and liability involved being sandwiched between the music and theatre departments."

"The fact that the communication department was housed with the departments of music and theatre sometimes forced the communication department to disappear," Creagh said.

The new organization of the campus schools will also result in the hiring of new deans to each school. The College's administration has already begun this procedure and has hired five of the six deans required. Dr. Rebecca Bailey will now serve as Dean of the School of the Arts, Dr. Marie Chamblee will serve as dean of the School of Health and Human Sciences, and Dr.

Garry Walton will serve as dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr. Linda Hubbard was hired last summer to serve as dean of the School of Education. Dr. Sidney Adkins was hired in January 2001 to serve as dean of the School of Business.

The College is still in the process of searching for a dean for the new School of Natural and Mathematical Sciences.

In accepting his new position as dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Walton will be leaving his current position as director of the Honors program.

"I have really enjoyed working with our Honors students, and I hope to bring some of what I have learned in that position to this new one -- about faculty collaboration on exciting new courses that bridge disciplines, about academic excellence, about pushing and supporting folks to embark on innovative academic adventures," Walton said.

"My hope is that these

new positions will give support to folks who really need it with tasks like assessment, recruitment, fund-raising, and mentoring," Walton said.

Dr. Rosalind Reichard, vice president for academic affairs, said, "The deans will be academic leaders of the institution who will work in a team to support the students, faculty, staff and the vice president for academic affairs in strengthening our learning environment."

Reichard said these new positions should not add a strain to the College's already tight budget. Reichard said, "The budget committee supported the allocation of funds for this reorganization because they saw it as strengthening the core mission of the College - our academic programs."

Considering that each of the new deans is already employed by the College, no additional paychecks will be added. Though it was not disclosed whether an increase in salary will result from the advancement to dean status. No effects on the budget are currently predicted at this time.

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