

Informational Report Town Hall, Exploratory School Discussion Workgroup May 10, 2023, 1:00-3:00pm via Zoom

Town Hall Objective:

The Exploratory School Discussion Workgroup has released an informational report and is seeking feedback. Information contained in the report will be used in the next phase to draft a conceptual model that will be provided to departments for their feedback, in what will be an iterative process.

Presentations:

The first hour of the Town Hall included a brief overview of the initiative goals and timeline, followed by presentations by the Workgroup on institutional data and information, peer models, and outreach.

Please visit the initiative website for a recording of the first hour of the Town Hall, the presentation slides, and links for providing feedback to the workgroup: <https://www.pdx.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/exploratory-school-initiative>

Discussion:

Most of the second hour was dedicated to informal discussion of the report. This section was not recorded. Main discussion topics included the following:

- Leveraging synergies to develop interdisciplinary curricular opportunities.
- Fostering collaboration while finding ways to maintain disciplinary identity.
- Ensuring that faculty with more disciplinary areas of focus feel included.
- Ensuring that programs maintain adequate staffing, while creating opportunities for staff who would like to be more specialized. Safeguarding the specialty areas of staff who would not like their roles to change.
- Understanding more about the costs and resources.
- Building “checks and balances” into the leadership/governance structure.
- School “theme”: How can we be bold? Generate excitement? Address wicked problems of the future? Use our urban setting to our advantage?

Please send questions and feedback on the Informational Report or ideas on “themes” for the potential new school to NewSchool@pdx.edu