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DRAFT POLICY

The academic deans and the vice president for academic affairs shall be the principal persons involved in making recommendations concerning the creation, merger or elimination of departments (program may be substituted for department hereafter if appropriate) or the transfer of a department to another college. The academic deans and the vice president for academic affairs shall be sensitive to the concerns and needs of those faculty persons most directly affected. It is expected that the appropriate academic dean(s) and the vice president for academic affairs will involve the affected chairperson(s) and faculty members. The appropriate academic dean(s) shall meet with all faculty members of affected department(s) prior to any public discussion of the creation, merger, elimination, or transfer of a department to another college. Additionally, the following are guiding principles that shall be adhered to:

1. There must be some common academic thread (i.e., theory, common history, educational methodology, etc.).
2. In any merger of departments or the transfer of one department to another college, the academic integrity must be protected.
3. The academic dean(s) shall provide assurance that student interests will be protected when departments are created, merged, transferred from one college to another, or eliminated. Department chairpersons and faculty shall be instructed to be especially sensitive to students concerns who may be affected from changes addressed by this policy. Students shall be assured that the catalog requirements under which they entered their current major degree program shall remain in effect in the event of a merger with another department or a change in college location. (Reference: Administrative Bulletin No. 23.) Notification of changes covered by this policy shall be provided in a timely fashion to all students affected. Faculty shall refer to procedures outlined in the MARSHALL UNIVERSITY GREENBOOK for such circumstances. (Reference: Policy Bulletin No. 36, Section 12, Page 85.)
4. The Faculty Senate President will be notified at the beginning of deliberations for a creation, merger, elimination, or transfer of a program and he/she will be involved in all discussions between deans and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
5. The vice president for academic affairs shall forward his/her recommendations to the University President for action.
6. The Faculty Senate President shall forward the recommendations of the Faculty Senate to the University President for action.