

Proposal on Creating “Schools” as a Naming Structure for Disciplinary Areas

Background

As SUNY Canton grows, the College will need to establish additional schools as academic administrative units. We propose the following model for such a division, which could be accomplished in three phases:

- Phase 1: Upon the Advancement Office obtaining a naming gift (on the order of \$500,000), a subsidiary school within the larger existing school could be created. The subsidiary school would be headed by a Director, who would report to the larger school’s Dean. Schools must contain a coherent and easily understood grouping of academic programs.
- Phase 2: Upon sufficient growth (to on the order of 600 students), the subsidiary school would be headed by an Associate Dean with an administrative assistant.
- Phase 3: Upon further growth (to on the order of 900-1,000 students) and through differentiation of academic programs, the subsidiary school would become independent of the existing school and be headed by a Dean.

As examples, currently our largest school is the School of Science, Health, and Criminal Justice. This School could potentially be divided into three entities: a School of Health Sciences, a School of Nursing, and a School of Criminal Justice.

Similarly, the School of Business and Liberal Arts could potentially be divided into two entities: a School of Business and a School of Applied Liberal Arts.

We believe that this model provides an opportunity for obtaining other significant naming gifts from donors for similarly focused disciplinary areas as “Schools,” that will benefit the College. The phased approach guarantees that additional administrative costs will not be incurred until there is sufficient growth to justify them.

Opportunity

The Advancement Office has received a pledge for a gift of \$550,000 to establish the “Margaret D. Sovie School of Nursing at SUNY Canton.” [Note that our preferred name is “Margaret D. Sovie School of Nursing” but since the donor’s will specifies “Margaret D. Sovie School of Nursing at SUNY Canton,” the estate is requesting that a judge approve the shorter name.]

Mr. Al Sovie (class of ’58) wished to honor the memory of his late wife, Margaret D. Sovie, by leaving a gift through his estate that would name the Nursing program. The College Council approved this naming of the Department in November 2016. After Mr. Sovie’s passing, it was learned that the final version of his will stipulated that what is currently the Nursing Department

be named the “Margaret D. Sovie School of Nursing at SUNY Canton.” Although we believe that this was simply a misunderstanding around the words “School” and “Department,” the representatives of the estate, in order to honor what they believe were the donor’s wishes, are insisting upon the specified wording of the will. If the program is not called a “School,” the gift will not be realized.

The proposed new school would include the Licensed Practical Nursing Program (Certificate in Practical Nursing), Registered Nursing Program (A.A.S. in Nursing Degree) and the Nursing Program (B.S. in Nursing Degree), which currently total some 400 students. This change reflects a renaming that acknowledges (1) the importance of the broad extent of the Nursing Program, (2) satisfies the donor’s wishes, and (3) is in keeping with the proposed model for establishing new schools.

The Nursing Department has been headed by a Director of Nursing (instead of a Department Chair) for several years, in recognition of the breadth of responsibilities and the number of students enrolled in its programs. The size of this program, its importance to SUNY Canton, and its natural distinction from other programs in the field of health fit the criteria of the proposed model for Phase 1 of the establishment of a new school. As stated in the model, the new school would retain its place in our current organizational structure within the School of Science, Health and Criminal Justice, and the Director of Nursing would (as currently) report to its Dean. Thus, establishment of the Margaret D. Sovie School of Nursing at SUNY Canton would require no changes in administrative structure, and would incur no additional costs. Until enrollment targets for Phase 3 have been met, the Dean’s title would change to “The Dean of the Schools of Health Science & Criminal Justice, and the Margaret D. Sovie School of Nursing at SUNY Canton.”

Proposal One: The College Council endorses the proposed model specified above for the establishment of new schools at SUNY Canton as opportunities and growth permit. It is understood that individual proposals for the creation of new schools in accordance with this model will be brought to the College Council for prior approval.

Proposal Two: The College Council approves the creation of **Margaret D. Sovie School of Nursing at SUNY Canton** [or the **Margaret D. Sovie School of Nursing** if the probate judge concurs with this change].