

MEMORANDUM

March 18, 2005

TO: Gerry Giordano, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Mark E. Workman, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

RE: Proposal to divide the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Attached is a request from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice to divide that collective unit into an autonomous department of Sociology and Anthropology and an autonomous department of Criminal Justice. I enthusiastically support this proposal. I have met with the department faculty who, by a very significant majority, are in favor of dividing the department; even those few who expressed some reservation acknowledged the benefits that would derive from dividing what has grown to be an overly large and overly complex department into smaller, more coherent units. The administrative and intellectual advantages are effectively articulated in the accompanying rationale presented by Dr. Hallett.

The COAS Planning and Budget Committee, charged with providing oversight of matters such as this, has met, reviewed, and approved the costs entailed in implementing the proposed division. Creation of two autonomous units out of the currently conjoined department will require two chairs and two senior secretaries. My intention is to search for and appoint chairs from within the existing programs. The rate required by the appointment of an additional chair (that is, additional to the chair who currently presides over SACJ) will be appropriated from the substantial rate made available upon the resignation of Dr. Scott Frey. His vacated line can support both the necessary rate for a new chair as well as a tenure-track appointment for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (as a permanent albeit junior replacement for Dr. Frey). Only a modest amount of rate (from the USPS rate pool) will be required to promote the current department secretary to a senior secretary so that each of the new departments will be served by a secretary of equal rank.

For the immediate future there would be no new equipment or space needs as the autonomous departments would continue to function out of existing office space. The new Social Science building is being designed to accommodate separate departments and

the equipment and furnishings for these new departments will be included in the funds allocated to the construction of that building.

In sum, at modest cost the proposed division will result in the creation of two academic units that, as a result of their smaller size and more coherent focus, should better meet the educational needs of our students and the professional needs of our faculty. The timing of this division is especially propitious as a result of the imminent availability of the new building and because, with the resignation of Dr. Frey, the department is at a juncture in terms of its leadership.

Thank you for considering this request.

c. Michael Hallett