CNS response to proposals and recommendations from Budget Discussions

The response below reflects the discussion held with the UH administrative team and subsequent discussion with Chairs/Directors of units within CNS.

We recognize the current crisis will require major budget cuts and a strategic reimagining of much of the programming at UH. The UH administrative team identified some areas where CNS programs should make changes and we agree that we can work on these. Other suggestions of the administration do not align with what we see as the best path forward for the College even with the current crisis. Note too that the referenced CNS Program Review is 6 years old and does not reflect many of the changes that have been made in the last four years, in response to that review. The College is working on a comprehensive response to the initial proposal.

Department of Chemistry
Summary recommendations:
- Continue addressing low success rates in gateway courses and Organic Chemistry.
- Review the BA/BS in Chemistry to address declining majors and retention issues.
- Ensure graduate students have access to the courses needed in identified sub-disciplines.
- Collaborate with faculty outside of Chemistry on research and a faculty-hiring plan.
- Encourage faculty with grant funding to provide research rather than teaching assistantships to support students.

Response: The Department of Chemistry will continue to improve courses in its core curriculum. Steps have been taken in recent years to revitalize instruction in General and Organic Chemistry – these efforts will continue. The small number of faculty in Chemistry relative to the size of the service teaching effort has led to the other issues identified.

School of Life Sciences
- Stop-out the MS and PhD programs in Microbiology.
- Consider stopping out the MS and PhD programs in Botany.
- Strongly encourage collaboration with life sciences units across campus. Pursue joint hires to facilitate collaboration on research and instruction.
- Support ways to accelerate the curricular changes needed to eliminate the duplication of courses, and possibly, to consolidate degrees. Consider hiring a consultant to facilitate this work.
- Consider joint JABSOM/Life Sciences (and perhaps CTAHR and SOEST/HIMB/PBRC) administration of the life sciences graduate programs.

Response: Research-active faculty in the field of Microbiology (and Botany) rely upon graduate students for strong research programs; these faculty will need full graduate status in a graduate
program. SLS will begin discussions of re-structuring its undergraduate and graduate degrees, and will include discussions with other units as part of this process.

**Department of Mathematics**
- Improve innovations in undergraduate courses, such as those already made by M. Chyba.
- Review faculty workload, adjusting for research productivity.
- Think strategically about hiring, collaborating with units outside of the Math Department.

*Response:* The Department of Mathematics will continue to innovate in its undergraduate courses, especially the service courses. Faculty workload adjustments and strategic hiring will be part of future operations.

**Department of Physics & Astronomy**
- Reorganize the Astronomy degree program into the Institute for Astronomy OR (based on discussion with unit) explore a collaborative administration of the program between IfA and Physics.
- Reduce inequities in the level of graduate student support.
- Review the BA/BS to address declining majors.
- Consider developing a capstone experience or partnering with UROP to develop and expand faculty-mentored research experiences.

*Response:* The Physics & Astronomy Department and the Institute for Astronomy have a strong and productive working relationship that already serves students well in the Astronomy and Astrophysics degrees. The undergraduate degrees in P&A will be examined as suggested, and faculty-mentored research experiences will be strengthened.

**Department of Information & Computer Sciences**
- Reorganize the Computer Science faculty and programs into the College of Engineering.
- Reorganize the Master of Library & Information Science program and faculty into the School of Communications (Social Sciences).
- House the PhD in Communication & Information Science in the School of Communications. Continue collaboration with Information & Technology Management (Shidler) and Computer Science.

*Response:* A re-organization of the ICS Department completely outside of CNS would be a devastating blow to the College, disrupting many productive collaborations that have been built over time. Re-positioning the LIS program and its faculty to Social Sciences may be a good fit, provided the LIS faculty are supportive of this change. Housing the PhD in Communication and Information Science in the School of Communications may also be a reasonable change. However, re-organization of ICS to the College of Engineering does not align with the programmatic vision of many of the ICS faculty.