

**The Faculty of Arts and Science Assembly**

To: Dean Antonio Merlo  
Dean Wendy Suzuki

Re: Proposed revisions to the CAS Core Curriculum

February 26, 2024

Dear Dean Merlo & Dean Suzuki:

At the meeting of the FAS Faculty Assembly on Monday, February 26, we discussed the proposed changes to the Core Curriculum in CAS. While we appreciate the work and thought that has gone into developing this proposal, we feel that it is problematic in a number of respects.

The most serious concerns have to do with the proposed “Complexities” requirement. How can high pedagogical quality and student engagement be achieved and maintained, both in the initial offering “Oceans” and in future offerings? How will the course be staffed?

Further issues discussed at the meeting included the reasonableness of requiring every CAS student to achieve competence in “Data and Discovery”, the impact of the proposed reorganization of the humanities/social science core categories on many social science majors, and the reasonableness of moving literature from the “Text”/“Ideas’ category to the “Arts” category.

We expect many of the FAS faculty will share our reservations. Since a detailed proposal has only been made available to the FAS faculty today, time is rather short for the faculty to consider and discuss this between now and April 1, when the FAS faculty meeting is scheduled to vote on the revision.

We therefore urge that an online venue for discussion of the proposal be created; and that the vote on the proposal be postponed until a meeting in May. We also suggest that, rather than have a simple up-and-down vote on the proposal as a whole, it would be better to vote on individual components of the plan.