



MEMORANDUM

TO: Judi McDonald, Chair  
Faculty Affairs Committee

FROM: Todd Butler, Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

DATE: May 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Additional information regarding Name Change Request for the School of Information

As per your request I am providing the Faculty Affairs Committee with additional information regarding the April 2022 request (attached) to change the name of the previously approved School of Information to the Department of Digital Technology and Culture (DTC). The FAC requested additional information on three questions, the answers to which are provided below. **All of these answers indicate unanimous support from the faculty immediately involved in the request, as well as the lack of impact on any existing units.**

In brief, FAC requested information on three items:

- Confirmation from Data Analytics leadership that the unit was supportive of not being in the new department.  
**Both the director and associate director have reaffirmed their support for not only being separated from the School of Information but also the renaming of the school.**
- A poll of DTC faculty in Pullman, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver to confirm that they do support the name change and the refocusing of the School of Information to include only DTC. Earlier this month, and using language reviewed by the FAC chair, the College polled faculty on these campuses regarding this specific question. **Respondents unanimously endorsed both the name change and the shift to a unit solely of DTC.** This result reaffirms the results of the prior poll that indicated these faculty preferred to not to merge with Fine Arts.
- Confirmation that other units were aware of any resources they might lose in this request. **There are no resource losses that will occur as a result of this name change.** Indeed, the name change is driven in part by the desire to invest additional college funds to support the growth of faculty and students in these areas. This growth has actually yielded some secondary benefits for other programs. Investing central resources in additional faculty hires dedicated to these areas, for example, has meant that other faculty with split teaching obligations can now return to full-time assignments in their home units, thus increasing the capacity of those units. (Unlike other colleges, CAS does not directly apply the current EBB funding model at the unit level, meaning that shifts in curricular organization do not immediately affect the funding of a unit.) Most recently, the College's commitment to a new teaching lab for DTC has enabled the return of needed (and much desired) space to the English department, in which will now have additional room for seminars and small group teaching.