

Faculty Senate Resolution- Ensuring Quality and Trust in the Analysis of Data Collected by the Dean's Committee Which Will Inform the 2023 Spring Semester Academic Realignment Work

Whereas, the 2023 Spring Semester Academic Realignment Work (hereafter "Academic Realignment") has the potential to dramatically reshape academic programs, affecting working conditions and the potential loss of faculty, staff, and administrative positions of Missouri State University's flagship campus; and

Whereas, the Dean's Committee charged with collecting qualitative data from university stakeholders for Phase II of the Academic Realignment process announced that the current plan only provides 17 days for data analysis and, in the January 2023 session of Faculty Senate Dean Smith, who oversees this committee, could not directly provide an answer to who would be conducting the data analysis or provide confirmation that the entirety of this group were skilled in qualitative data analysis; and

Whereas, 17 days is not sufficient time to conduct high-quality quantitative or qualitative data analysis, which requires significant training in both finding emergent themes and in mitigating personal bias; and

Whereas, the current data analysis plan falls short of the academic excellence expected of an institution of higher learning and field research standards; and

Whereas, the current data analysis plan heightens the distrust in the Academic Realignment process created in Phase I; therefore,

Be it resolved, that to foster the trust required for the healthy function of Missouri State University and to meet the academic rigor expected of institutions of higher learning, the Faculty Senate requests extending the period for data analysis by no less than 14 working days; and

Be it further resolved, the Faculty Senate requests that the data analysis be conducted by a party external to the university, for example, Qualtrics, or by an ad hoc committee of MSU faculty trained in qualitative data analysis who would be renumeralated for their time.