THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Okanagan Campus

Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic
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MEMORANDUM

Date: October 7, 2026

To: Faculty and staff in the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) and the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies (FCCS)

Cc. Bryce Traister, Dean, FCCS and Dean *pro tem*, FASS

From: Marie Tarrant, Provost and Vice-President, Academic *pro tem*, UBC Okanagan

Subject: Proposed New Arts Faculty at UBC Okanagan

Thank you to everyone who participated in recent Faculty Council meetings and engagement sessions regarding the proposed new Arts Faculty. I appreciate the thoughtful feedback, questions and perspectives shared by faculty and staff. I would like to address some of the themes that emerged and provide an overview of the process ahead.

Process

In May 2026, the Okanagan Leadership Council unanimously endorsed the recommendation to create a new Arts Faculty. A formal proposal is now required to establish and name the new Faculty. The creation of a new Faculty is ultimately the decision of the Board of Governors, following approval by the Okanagan Senate. Faculty and staff input is essential to ensure that the proposal brought forward reflects the expertise, perspectives and priorities of the proposed Faculty's members.

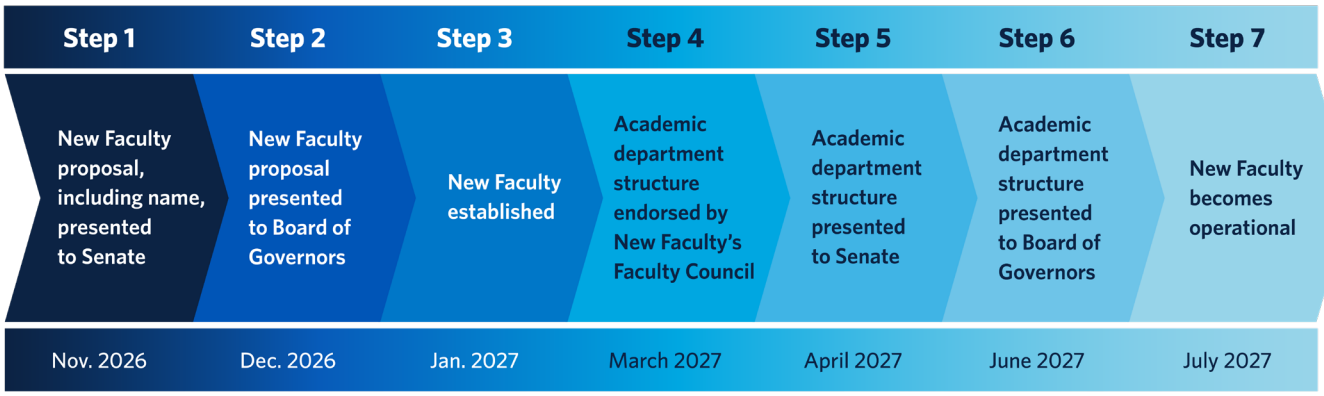
In advance of the proposal, the FASS and FCCS Faculty Councils will have an opportunity, through an electronic vote, to indicate whether they endorse the creation of a new Arts Faculty and to vote on the Faculty name. The results of the electronic vote will help inform the proposal brought forward for consideration by the Okanagan Senate.

While an academic department structure cannot be formally established until the new Faculty exists, the New Arts Faculty Design Committee has started exploring options for how the new Faculty could be organized, with input from FASS and FCCS faculty and staff.

Timeline

The proposed timeline (target dates below) is intended to support successful outcomes for students during important periods such as graduation and registration. It reflects the need to develop the formal proposal required to establish a new Faculty and to allow sufficient time for implementation, including work related to systems, governance, budgeting, academic planning and recruiting future Faculty leadership. It is also intended to minimize disruption to students and university operations and limit the

period of uncertainty for students, faculty and staff. Importantly, the search for a Dean of the new Faculty cannot begin until the Faculty has been formally established.



These are target dates.

Next Steps

Over the coming months, engagement and planning will continue to support the development of the New Arts Faculty proposal and recommendations regarding its future organization. We will continue to provide a monthly update to Senate on the status of the project, and I encourage you to connect with your Senate faculty representatives if you have questions. Senate is a public forum, and meetings are livestreamed (instructions are available on the Senate website and can also be found here).

I encourage you to stop by the upcoming open house between 10 am – 1 pm on **October 8** in the ADM Foyer and share your perspectives as this work progresses.

I recognize that many faculty and staff also have questions about the financial context in which this work is taking place. To support further discussion and transparency, we will host a session in late October (date to be confirmed) focused specifically on the Faculties' financial status and the questions raised through recent engagement activities and Faculty Council meetings.

As this work continues, I encourage you to participate in the engagement opportunities, visit the Proposed New Arts Faculty website for regular updates and speak with your department's representative on the New Arts Faculty Design Committee.