



COLLEGE of DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Dear CDes Colleagues,

As July draws to a close, the CSWG subgroups continue to meet and move forward with establishing our two new departments. Collected here are updates and news related to the work done this month:

- **New Department Heads:** As a reminder, last month Professor Barry Kudrowitz became head of the new department consisting of Apparel Design, Graphic Design, Product Design, and Retail Merchandising. Interior Design has begun its move to join Architecture. In FY24, Landscape Architecture will join Architecture and Interior Design. Professor Kristine Miller has assumed the role of interim department head for Landscape Architecture. This year, she will help prepare for landscape's move to complete the formation of the new department composed of Architecture, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture. Students will be introduced to both new heads and the restructuring initiative at the beginning of this fall semester.
- **CDes Spaces:** Construction has started in McNeal 32 and will soon begin in Rapson 253. As a reminder, McNeal 32 hosts administrative offices, including the CDes Dean's suite in St. Paul. Once this project is complete, it will be the home of the Dean's Office, CDes Student Services, and general studio space. Rapson 253 currently houses offices but will soon be transformed into much-needed studio space. Upon completion, both projects will provide more learning spaces for students. The construction will continue throughout the fall semester and will be noisy at times, so thank you for your patience! In addition to this construction, IDes faculty offices are beginning to move into Rapson Hall and the refresh project of room 175 at 1425 University will begin shortly.
- **7:12 Working Group:** As a reminder, the 7:12 subgroup has put together [a memo summarizing its findings and recommendations for departmental 7:12 statements](#). In addition, Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Faculty Affairs Sauman Chu has spoken with each tenure-track faculty member across the college to create an individual plan for their 7:12-guided P&T progression moving forward. Department heads will begin to put the subgroup's recommendations into action this fall when revising 7:12s for the new departments. Recommendations include wording to guide interdisciplinary collaboration, DEI-focused and community-engaged work, and practice-related scholarship.
- **HR Working Group:** The HR subgroup has been working with the employee relations team on administrative job duties and descriptions.
- **Governance Working Group:** The governance subgroup has been meeting with department heads to flesh out the job description for the new role of associate department head. This new position will be included in the organizational structure for both new departments. The governance group is also examining the best



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approach to name the new departments and administering interdisciplinary and collaborative programs within the new college structure.

- **CDes Lead Administrators Community of Practice:** The Lead Admins (James Carlisle, Amanda Smoot, and Bob Glunz) continue to meet weekly, comparing the administrative practices within our current departments and mapping out how to align processes and expectations in the new departments and units. Initial focuses include submitting appointment information to payroll and adjunct faculty appointment letters with other processes in the works.

My next update will be sent out towards the end of August, ahead of the fall semester. In the meantime, you can continue to stay up-to-date on the work being done by checking our [CSWG Intranet page](#) or reaching out to a subgroup chair. You can [also submit anonymous feedback or questions using this form](#).

Cheers,

Amelia Narigon (she/her/hers)

Director of Communications | College of Design | design.umn.edu

University of Minnesota | umn.edu

anarigon@umn.edu | 651.271.4165