# TOWN HALL MEETING

## JANUARY 25, 2023

# Working Group #3: seeding premise & question

"As knowledge has become increasingly interdisciplinary, we have worked with our faculty size and historical departmental structures to add interdisciplinary majors and minors.

What could it look like to make a deeper commitment to interdisciplinary work, or conversely, to the major disciplines? "

# WG3: Co-creation of key questions, definitions, & overall work plan

**Convened Working Group**
- Open-call for community participants across administration, students, staff, and faculty
- Ensured perspectives from arts, humanities, and sciences
- Membership had to include CAP representative
- Created shared operating norms for dialogue , attendance, and engagement

**Revise Original Questions**
- Revisited and co-created revised set of key questions. Importantly, WG3 wanted to break apart a perceived false dyad that pitted strength in disciplines against multi- and inter-disciplinarity by depicting them as reinforcing and inter-dependent relationships
- Co-created definitions of key-terms to work with shared language and starting points
- Discussed what "success" might look like at end of process and aired concerns and worries

**Stock-Taking of Status Quo**
- Quantitative Methods: group focused on discussing survey-based, quantitative metrics needed to understand status quo and where this data already exists in BMC
- Qualitative Methods: group discussed what information or perspectives will be lost without qualitative methods (surveys, focus groups) and nuances of how to measure "quality" of delivery
- Key eye and emphasis placed on how to capture departmental nuances
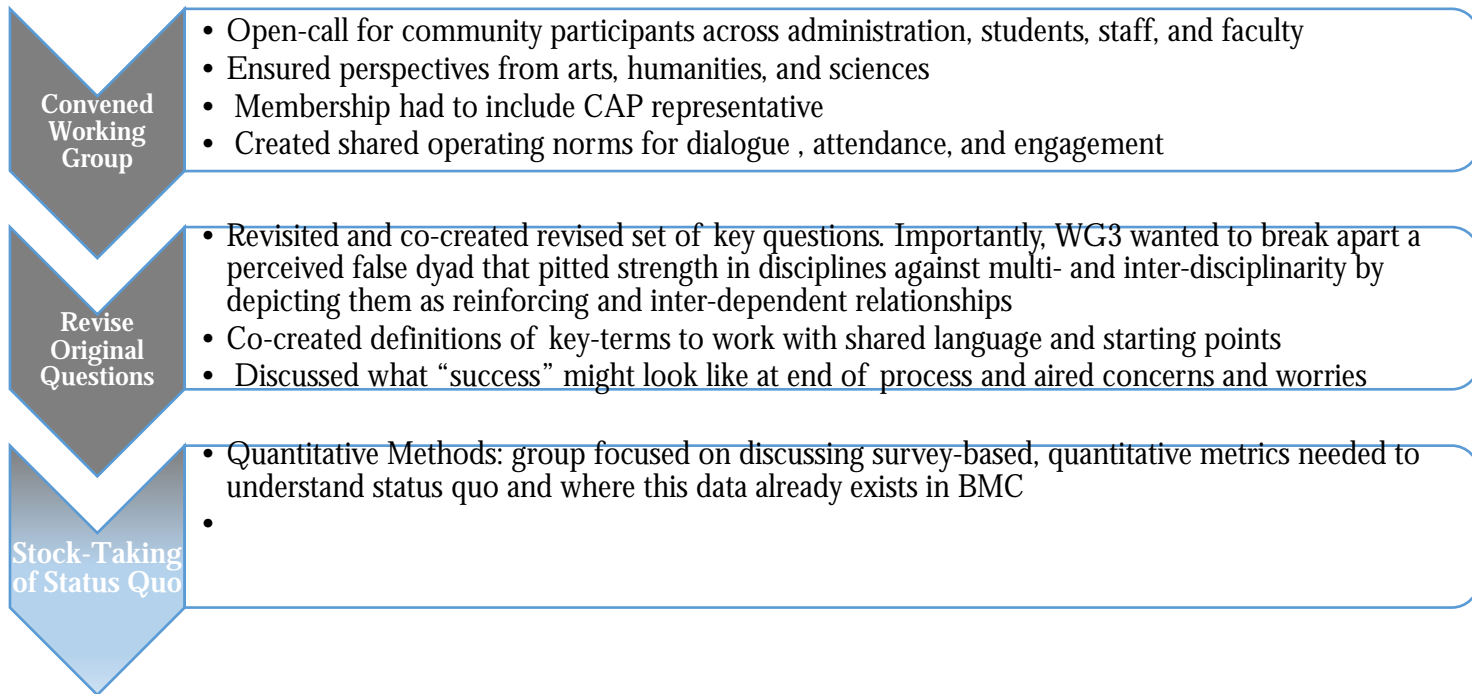
**Gap Assessment**
- Using quantitative and qualitative inputs, will derive a "gap assessment" of resources needed to deliver on existing promise of disciplinary strength and inter-/multi-disciplinary programming
- Check-ins (format TBD) will focus on ensuring emergent observations resonate
- Deliverable: capture emergent views about what it takes to deepen commitment to what exists, and any emergent views about possible commitments outside of status quo

# WG3: Focus on shared definitions

[Placeholder for Lisa Saltzman's and Madhavi Kale's sub-group]

# WG3: what has been done, what remains

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# WG3: **community engagement** during stock-taking and gap-assessment phases

**Stock-Taking of Status Quo**

- Quantitative Methods...

# Appendix A: revised questions (1/2)

**Our Working Premise**

1.  The interrelationship between strong academic disciplines (in undergraduate and graduate programs) and interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary endeavors (minors, departments, programs); emphasizing the way the strength of this relationship fosters connections, for students, faculty, and staff, and supports a vibrant intellectual community.
2.  As we approach our work, we are keeping in mind the academic mission and values of Bryn Mawr College, and how these are manifested in the formal curriculum, and in extra- and co-curricular opportunities; both disciplinary and interdisciplinary in nature.

# Appendix A: revised questions (2/2)

**Our Revised "Sub-Questions" to Guide Data-Gathering**

1. How do we disaggregate all that has been placed together under the rubric of interdisciplinarity and clarify the different forms that such inquiry and pedagogy take? And,

# Appendix B: 2022-23 work plan detail (1/2)

**Phase 1: Co-created questions, definitions, and work plan**

1. Framing of guiding questions
2. What types of data or input do we need? Identify where/how to get relevant information:
   a. Provost's Office
   b. IR
   c. Outreach to faculty, staff and students
3. Establish a working framework of definitions: Pre-disciplinary, Disciplinary, Interdisciplinary, and Multi-disciplinary
   a. Facilitation tool for our work
   b. Help us to be create alignment in talking with others

**Phase 2: Stock taking through (quant-, and qualitative) data gathering & community engagement**

1. Gather & harmonize pre-existing data sets on status quo offering, resourcing levels
2. Describe the status quo for our working group's understanding of disciplinary and interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary opportunities
   a. Share with community and gather community input to get a more nuanced understanding from the perspective of different constituencies?
   b. Check-in with community about accuracy of our understanding
   c. Are there sets of information that we are missing?