**Statement on the Proposed Governance Plan**

**March 18, 2021**

The Department of History objects to the process through which the new governance plan has been proposed, that is, without submitting proposed amendments to the standing By-Laws Committee, one option specified under the current Governance Plan. Furthermore, the President's proposed plan has numerous deficiencies. It severely limits faculty input by eliminating faculty elections of committee chairs. It impairs academic freedom by turning the Academic Freedom Committee into a body whose members are exclusively selected by Deans. It eliminates crucial committees, such as the Institutional Planning Committee, the Budget Committee, and the General Education Committee. It provides no clear representation for interdisciplinary programs. It contains no clear provisions for the Verrazano Honors and Macaulay Honors Committee, whose membership include faculty and crucial staff. It alters the Promotions and Budget Committee by severely limiting the role of faculty in determining tenure and promotion for their peers. It creates an unwieldy process of appeal for the Course and Standing Committee. The proposed plan includes a significant number of inconsistencies and contradictions that indicate the need for careful and thoughtful revisions that cannot be made with the haste demanded by the deadlines set in the proposal.​ Therefore, we urge the President to withdraw the proposal and engage the college community through the current governance plan to explain the need for overhauling our recently approved bylaws.