6% abstained. Of faculty and staff, 74% supported the merger. These majorities pushed the merger proposition through the University Senate, ultimately leading to its approval.

Many within the college are optimistic about the merger, particularly in terms of research collaboration. Biology professor Charles Delwiche said, “It’s just a little bit easier to justify collaboration if you’re in the same college.” Delwiche noted that projects requiring joint funding from two programs are easier to approve when researchers only need to convince one dean. Delwiche added, “It also increases the overall efficiency of the university.”

Despite the merger, current research endeavors appear to continue as before and much of the college infrastructure has remained unaltered. While some have a favorable outlook on the effects of the merger, others do not see it as vital to improving quality or scope of research. Regarding interdisciplinary research before the merger, math professor Jeffrey Adams said that he could always collaborate with another department such as biology if he wanted.

As with any change, there may be potential complications. With the merger of the colleges, the problems faced by each college have also been bundled. The merger has left some staff members concerned about potential academic downsizing or cuts in funding according to Dr. Delwiche, though he hopes this concern is unfounded. As of yet, the merger has not resulted in any reduction in positions or financial cuts. Still, Delwiche noted, the structure of the two colleges previously had an unusual arrangement, with research and coursework headed by the college rather than by the various departments. “Although there will be growing pains, I think it’s going to work out,” he said in respect to the restructuring of the system. This sentiment is echoed by many members of faculty and staff – that the new arrangement will lead to a stronger university.