**Arts and Humanities Executive Committee**

2018 Annual Report

**PROCESS:** We reviewed four potential RFP submissions, forwarded three, and received news that one, the *Public Humanities Initiative,* was funded. Another, a bioethics initiative, is proceeding on a smaller scale with College funding. The third one focused on events planning is being held until the third round anticipating links with other proposals that are under discussion. One that will be submitted in the second round proposes to consider assessment of the ways in which arts events can aid in helping create a stronger culture of diversity and inclusion. Another, (see more below), a proposal for a “year of the arts and humanities” that will have a more attractive, focused marketing title, is being discussed for a third round proposal.

We appointed a steering committee to solicit and develop proposals for the second and third rounds. They have established a web site, see <https://sites.psu.edu/ahsteeringcmte/>, and held a reasonably well attended forum on the UP campus on January 17. We anticipate some compelling arts/humanities related proposals for the second round.

**OUTREACH:** One of our priorities, a university wide calendar, which will be especially helpful to publicize arts and humanities events, is now receiving university wide attention. Laurence Lokman and Michael Kubit are working to find and implement a solution.

Another priority relating to campuses as cultural destinations is being explored as the UP campus project to move the Palmer and other museums and amenities to the arboretum district. This idea is being discussed with potential donors.

The campus representatives on the A&H Executive Committee will be working with the VP for the Commonwealth Campuses to invite the co-chairs (Welch and Korner) to a meeting of the campus chancellors to consider how our committee can support the idea of campuses as cultural destinations within the community. We anticipate that this will take different shapes on different campuses and some campuses may not wish to focus on this particular priority. We need to clarify what being a “cultural destination” means for each campus, possibly comparing such a goal to what we are doing with PSU Launch Box concept in various locations. (Dr. Paul Shrivastava’s notion of aesthetics as part of every sustainability effort may be useful in this regard.)

Early in our deliberations, the Executive Committee discussed the possibility of a new position of an A&H coordinator that would reach out to all campuses. We need to consider whether this remains a good idea and, if so, how we move it along?

**STUDENTS AND CURRICULUM:** Progress on curricular and student issues has been spotty. However, several arts and humanities faculty have developed inter domain courses that will be part of the new general education program. Ten were funded in the university-wide competition, including three between CLA humanities faculty and ECOS. Liberal Arts has about 40 other inter domain courses in the curricular pipeline, at least two are with ECOS. A&A is also exploring inter domain courses. This committee needs to connect again after our initial meeting with the University’s general education coordinator. It is unclear that faculty working on general education courses are considering ways to incorporate arts and humanities in more courses.

We also desire to integrate more of the arts and humanities into study abroad programs. In the weeks ahead, Doug Cavener will explore with Global Programs how our committee might lead efforts to increase communication and linkages among existing programs at UP and all campuses. There seems to be considerable fragmentation (e.g. three different programs in Tanzania) that might create a stronger, holistic experience for students and be more intentional in infusing all programs with the necessary historical, political, cultural background that will aid in a better contextual understanding of other topics to be covered. Having more cohesive international experiences, might lead to more effective fund-raising to support international experiences for all students regardless of financial backgrounds.

Beyond the “low-hanging” fruit of more effective marketing and encouraging faculty connections to reduce fragmentation of programs, our committee would like to explore waysto use technology to continue and enhance connections made through global study after a few days or a week abroad through short-term courses.

**RESEARCH:** New and expanded research entities in the arts (Arts and Design Research Incubator) and humanities (Humanities Institute) took off this year with expanded interdisciplinary activities, including for HI, the Truth Project, and ADRI’s FaceAge and Mechanisms of Mind. For future proposals, the CLA associate dean for research will be working with humanities related institutes and centers to request proposals for the third round that help strengthen research centers through infrastructure, and programming.

**2019-2020: A YEAR FOCUSED ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES.** In the weeks ahead, our committee will be fleshing out a plan for a year’s focus that has the potential to tie research, curricula, and outreach together. The goal will be to articulate a “BIG IDEA” that can engage faculty from a range of disciplines and around our campuses to explore with a special focus on infusing or spotlighting the arts and humanities as a key way to view, ponder, explode and explore a major issue or set of issues that face the future of humanity on the planet. The Executive Committee will be meeting with the Steering Committee in the weeks ahead to explore this and have a proposal for the third round. The completion of the calendar project by January 2019, or earlier, will be important in order implement this.