

Annual Report, 2004-2005  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
North Carolina State University

Submitted by:  
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In 2004-05, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) has made significant progress on the institutionalization of a College-wide commitment to interdisciplinary teaching, research, and service. CHASS prepared several advance proposals for new degree programs and received approval to implement many new options (both graduate and undergraduate) during the 2005-06 academic year. CHASS has endeavored to serve the needs of all NC State undergraduates, despite uncertainties associated with enrollment management and budget cuts.

**Changes in the Service Environment**

One of the major challenges CHASS has faced has been continuing to serve the needs of all NC State undergraduates while building undergraduate enrollment and graduate programs in CHASS. Despite the budget cuts CHASS has absorbed in the past four years, full funding for enrollment increase at NC State and support from the Provost's Office has enabled CHASS to increase credit hours generated by nearly 7 percent. In academic year 2004-05, CHASS generated more than 205,000 credit hours, compared with 192,000 credit hours in academic year 2001-02. Unfortunately, meeting the need for additional seats has resulted in larger class sections and less choice for undergraduates. It also has slowed college efforts to dramatically reduce the percentage of faculty in special ranks. In 2001-02, 52 percent of CHASS faculty members were in special ranks; in 2004-05 that declined to 48 percent. Our goal, consistent with SACS attention to this issue, is to reduce the number of faculty in special ranks to 40 percent. The number of GER hours required in the humanities and social sciences makes NC State an outlier among our peers. The current review of GER

may lead to the reduction by three or six hours of HSS credit. If those funds are reinvested in new tenure-track hires in CHASS, we could begin to address the tenure-track faculty shortfalls.

Additional challenges confronting CHASS include instability in the budget, making it difficult to plan and invest resources efficiently—illustrated by early cuts and the allocation of additional resources at the end of the budget year when it is too late to invest in instruction. A second, related, challenge is enrollment management. As available resources shrink, accurate predictions of the size of the first-year class, anticipated external transfers, and projected graduation rates become even more important to CHASS in attempting to meet the need for seats in GER courses. The third major challenge is facilities and space planning. During the past year, CHASS has worked with Registration & Records to identify larger classrooms to enable the college to offer larger sections of GER courses to accommodate more students, but the availability of appropriate classrooms is a continuing problem.

### **Enhancing the CHASS Commitment to Interdisciplinary Programs**

A major priority within CHASS during the past three years has been enhancing the College's commitment to interdisciplinary programs. In June 2003 a college-wide Task Force recommended a shift away from the divisional model, with the relocation of administration of interdisciplinary programs housed in the Division of Multidisciplinary Studies (MDS) to the Office of Academic Affairs within the Dean's Office and the reassignment of MDS faculty to existing departments or, if a suitable department home could not be identified, to the Dean's Office. These reassignments were negotiated in 2003-04, and implemented during 2004-05. During 2004-05 we have evaluated several of the programs previously offered through the Division of Multidisciplinary Studies and, based on these evaluations, are bringing greater focus and uniform standards to the programs—especially Self-Design major, MALS, and Arts Applications. We also have recruited new leadership for

the Self-Design major and MALS, and will be recruiting a new director of the Arts Studies program in 2005-06.

### **Diversity: Initiatives and Progress**

The College has a long-standing commitment to recruitment and retention of students, faculty, and staff of color. During the past year we have increased the percentage of students of color enrolled in the College from 18.2 percent to 19.1 percent. We have increased the percentage of staff of color in CHASS from 15.3 percent to 17 percent. Unfortunately, the percentage of faculty of color has decreased from 10.6 percent to 8.8 percent. The recruitment of one Latina and two senior African-American faculty for the 2005-06 academic year will begin to offset this decline.

We support efforts to address the retention of African-American and other students of color and their graduation rates at N.C. State. The CHASS Office of Diversity Programs continues to monitor progress towards degree of African-American, Native American, and Hispanic students. The CHASS SUCCESS project focuses on faculty mentoring and intervention with African-American students experiencing difficulty in their studies.

### **Instructional Program Initiatives**

CHASS is committed to the introduction of a selected number of new interdisciplinary and/or applied undergraduate and graduate degrees and minors designed to serve the diverse needs and interests of NC State students. Highlights of these programs include:

- Masters degrees in French and Spanish (implemented 2004-05)
- MFA in Creative Writing (implemented 2004-05)
- Ph.D. in Communication, Rhetoric and Digital Media (a joint offering of the Departments of English and Communication) has been approved and the first class admitted for fall 2005.

- Master of Social Work has been approved and the first class admitted for fall 2005.
- B.A. in International Studies (will be available in fall 2005).
- B.A. in Africana Studies (will be available spring 2006).
- B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies (will be available in spring 2006).
- B.A. in Leadership in the Public Sector, a DE-delivered degree completion program (will be available spring 2006).

### **Research**

Faculty members across CHASS have received 31 awards totaling \$2.1 million dollars through May 31, 2005 (comparable figure at this time last year was \$3.6 million dollars). One important measure of research activity is facilities & administrative cost receipts. In 2004-05, CHASS generated \$196,181 in F&A, a 29 percent increase over 2003-04 and a 66 percent increase over 2000-01. A major contributing factor has been the recruitment of 70 new faculty members during this period, and an investment by the college Research Office in orientation and support for these new faculty members. The bulk of the grant proposals submitted during the last three years include newly-hired faculty as PIs or co-PIs. An active research portfolio and/or externally funded research are increasingly important to reappointment, promotion, and tenure decisions in the college—understanding that those in humanities disciplines generally have fewer opportunities for external funding than do those in social science disciplines.

### **Extension Initiatives and Public Service Activities**

Extension and engagement are at the core of our mission, and the spirit of the “Engaged Liberal Arts” is central to activities and programs throughout the College. Highlights include:

- The Institute for Nonprofits has implemented several new programs including a grant from the Rex Endowment to address the health care needs of underserved children in Wake County, participation in a partnership feasibility study to address community needs in Southeast Raleigh, and a planned assessment of Raleigh's 10-year Plan to End Homelessness. These activities contribute to improved quality of life for North Carolinians and provide significant opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to become involved in extension and engagement.
- Our visiting professorship with SAS Institute marks its third year. We are exploring ways to expand this collaboration into a long-term, multifaceted program.
- The Creative Writing Program hosted a series of public events this year, including a public reading by acclaimed author Bruce Sterling and statewide poetry and short story contests.
- Nobel Prize winning economist, Dr. Vernon Smith, spoke to overflow crowds at the inaugural Pope Lecture Series. The Pope Lecture is funded by a joint grant from the Pope Foundation supporting CHASS and the College of Management promoting education and research in economics and public policy.
- The Political Science and Public Administration department hosted the inaugural Abraham Holtzman Public Policy Forum, dedicated to informing leaders and the public about critical public policy. Dr. Peter Orszag, presenting on Social Security Reform, was the featured speaker at the forum.
- Through public events and media involvement, our faculty continues to help communities across the state understand world events – particularly with regard to the 2004 presidential and local elections, and the war in Iraq.

### **Faculty and Staff Honors, Awards and Recognitions**

Notable accomplishments this year include:

- Ten CHASS faculty were honored with College-wide awards, for excellence in teaching, advising, research and engagement.
- Five CHASS faculty won University-level awards.
- Two CHASS staff members were nominees for University Awards for Excellence.
- As a whole, CHASS faculty published 29 authored books.
- Akram Khater, Department of History, has been awarded a National Humanities Center Fellowship for the 2005-06 Academic Year.

### **Student Honors and Activities**

We are proud of our student achievers:

- 2050 students earned Dean's List honors in 2004-05 (fall and spring).

- 40 students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this year (out of 92).
- 41 students held prestigious Park Scholarships in 2004-05.
- History major Carolyn Windham is one of 12 students nationwide to win the prestigious George J. Mitchell Scholarship. She was selected from a field of 220 applicants from 166 colleges and universities. Carolyn is a Park Scholar, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi.

### **Private Sector Fund-Raising and Advancement Activities**

The CHASS goal for the comprehensive campaign is \$12 million over a seven-year time frame. CHASS set a goal of \$1 million dollars for 2004-05. As of late April 2005, the college has raised \$1.437 million, or more than 140% of our goal for the fiscal year. To date, the college is credited with \$7.8 million, or 65% of our campaign goal.

### **Administration**

During the 2004-05 academic year, CHASS successfully recruited 13 faculty members, including a Director of the Public History Program. We experimented with a new approach to faculty recruitment in support of interdisciplinary programs, by structuring a discipline-open search for a faculty member in South Asia Environment, and invited CHASS departments to participate in the search that would result in the selection of the most qualified faculty member in the area and appointment in an appropriate department. The success of this search, and the support of all participating departments for the process, has encouraged us to use this approach in the search for a Director of the Arts Studies program in 2005-06.

Following a national search, CHASS filled the SAS Distinguished Professorship in Rhetoric and Technical Communication with Dr. Carolyn Miller, Professor of English at NC State, and an internationally-recognized expert in her field. The College also successfully concluded the search for a new department head in Sociology & Anthropology. Dr. Edward Kick, professor of Sociology and department head at Middle Tennessee State University, will assume the position on September 1, 2005, replacing Dr. Bill Clifford, who has served for

many years as an outstanding head. Dr. Mary Helen Thuente, head of the Department of English, returns to the faculty on July 1, 2005. Dr. Walt Wolfram, the William Friday Distinguished Professor of Linguistics, will serve as interim head of the department of English as we conduct a national search during 2005-06. Based on the decision to create a professionally-oriented School of Public and International Affairs, we suspended the search for a new department head for Political Science & Public Administration. The search will be reengaged in fall 2005, as we seek a founding head of the School of Public and International Affairs, which will be launched in July 2006. During 2005-06 we also will conduct a national search for a department head for Psychology.

### **Recommendations and Concerns for the Future**

During 2004-05, CHASS will focus on expanding the commitment to interdisciplinary programs, with an emphasis on faculty recruitment, team-teaching, curriculum development, and criteria for reappointment, promotion and tenure.

In addition, the following items will be included on the College agenda:

- Implement proposal for a new School of Public and International Affairs.
- Search for new department heads in English, Political Science and Public Administration (School of Public and International Affairs), and Psychology.
- Implement new degree programs.
- Develop a strategic plan for information technology and distance education in CHASS.
- Emphasize prospect identification and solicitation during the public phase of the comprehensive campaign.
- Participate actively in the university-wide review of GER.
- Review academic advising in the college, with consideration of a professional advising model.
- Develop a strategy to enhance externally sponsored research in CHASS.

- Continue focus on the bond build-out (especially Withers Hall, 1911 Building, and Park Shops) and associated swing space needs.

In sum, this has been a challenging year, but a rewarding one as well. We have continued to successfully recruit top faculty and students. Through the compact planning, process we have emphasized the College's commitment to interdisciplinary programs and partnerships with other colleges at NC State. All of this has happened despite budget cuts. The support of the Provost's Office in the past year has been especially important in our successes. Morale remains high in CHASS, and we look forward to continued collaboration with our colleagues and partners to advance the reputation of NC State.