

CHASS Faculty Meeting Report

My apologies for not being able to attend the CHASS faculty meeting today. There is a conflicting university-wide ETF meeting that I must attend. I will keep this report brief but welcome follow-up questions, comments, or suggestions. Areas currently under the aegis of Research and Graduate office include research, graduate studies, information technology, and extension services.

Research: Research grant activity during 2005-06 was up from the previous year, with \$4.04 million of external funding received. This is compared with the previous year, 2004-05, when CHASS generated \$2.7 million. Total overhead revenues were \$461,000, of which \$157,000-came back to CHASS. Approximately 70 per cent was of this sum was passed on directly to the departments responsible for generating the external grants. My one evaluative observation is that some departments have much more robust proposal activity than others, and that not all of this variance is endemic to differential disciplinary opportunities for external funding.

Graduate Programs: Graduate programs continue to grow and new graduate programs are being proposed. A Ph.D. proposal in Public History and a Graduate Minor in Cognitive Studies are currently under review by the Graduate Committee, and more proposals are in progress. Graduate student enrollment continues to increase, and the number of graduate TAs and RAs continues to rise as well. This year, we have more than 180 TA and RA slots in CHASS. This is a welcome trend.

Information Technology: CHASS has made great strides in equipping classrooms in the past several years and this trend continues. In 2005-06 3 new smart classrooms were added and plans call for four more to be equipped in 2006-07. Service and innovation by the CHASS IT staff are exemplary, and we are most fortunate among the colleges of NC State. CHASS IT has also developed a method for accessing the CHASS computer labs from off-site locations. Oversight of IT in CHASS will be enhanced by the establishment of an operational IT Advisory Committee on which all departments and administrative units are represented, as well as a smaller Advisory Committee with responsibility for systematic review of established labs and the consideration of new lab proposals.

Extension: While the administrative infrastructure of CHASS Extension Programs is currently on hold, CHASS faculty are very involved in exemplary engagement and outreach on a personal and programmatic level. One of my goals during my interim status is to develop an operative administrative structure for CHASS extension activities.

Summary Concern

I am concerned about the connection between current administrative programs in the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and the teaching and research faculty, and would like to provide opportunities for faculty to learn more about the functions, services, and opportunities of these programs. At the very least, there is an information gap. Starting in November, I will hold a series of open fora for faculty to learn more about these programs, to ask questions, to make suggestions, and to work with us to make these programs more responsive to the needs and concerns of CHASS faculty. Please look for notices of these sessions and plan to attend.

Walt Wolfram