

## Report of the College Strategic Planning Committee

For presentation to the CHASS Spring 2013 Faculty meeting April 15, 2013

**Charge from Dean Braden:** In response to the Provost's request for colleges to carefully consider how they are aligning with the university strategic plan, prepare a document to be distributed/presented at the Spring CHASS faculty meeting, April 15, 2013

The document should be a statement of ideas about places where we can make important, and potentially unique, contributions to the university's mission and strategic plan.

**Process:** Dean Braden appointed a committee with representation from each of the college department and units and appointed Associate Dean Gallagher as the convener. The committee met 4 times between Feb. 22 and April 8. The committee considered last year's college response to the provost, departmental strategic plan responses/ideas, a report on doctoral trends in the humanities, and university, college, and departmental initiatives. Between meetings, committee members provided information about academic and research initiatives, partnerships within and across colleges and community, and formulated ideas.

### **Guiding Questions/Organizing Principles:**

What are the areas in which CHASS already participates in unique and important ways where investments could be leveraged to further enhance and build strength?

What are the university cluster areas in which CHASS could participate more centrally?

In what areas is CHASS on the leading edge, such that further support would open up new opportunities and partnerships for the college and the university?

What are some of the "Big Ideas" of interest to CHASS faculty; who are the possible partners for pursuing these areas through teaching, research, program development; and what is the relationship to university, and to departmental, strategic plan goals?

The Committee proposes the following Big Ideas or Macro categories to guide the college strategic response:

**Digitization in the Humanities and Social Science**, specifically the methods, ideas, and opportunities engaged through **Digital Humanities** and the use, impact, and methods of **Big Data**. Examples of partnerships include NC State humanities faculty working with partners from UNC and Duke to develop a graduate certificate program and with NC State Hunt library staff to bring to fruition DH projects and to establish a DH Institute in the library. Also,

potential partnerships between social science faculty in Linguistics, Sociology, Psychology, etc. with the Big Data cluster hire group and the Masters of Analytics program

**Globalizations: Populations, Cultures and Mobilities**, specifically social scientific approaches to **demography, immigration, and communities**, particularly in reference to **Latina/Latino** populations, and humanistic studies of **cultural flows and social practices**, particularly in and around the **Atlantic, the Asia-Pacific Rim, and the Middle East**.

**Science, Technology, and Society**, specifically focusing on the social scientific and humanistic facets of **Health and Wellbeing**, including **Aging, Public Understanding of Science, Food Studies, and Forensic Sciences**.

Additionally, build on existing strengths in STS, including **energy and environment, safety and security, science and technology ethics, science and technology policy**

Guiding Principles for Investment:

- Invest in existing doctoral programs (faculty lines, assistantships, fellowships, etc.) even as we pursue targeted growth through additional doctoral concentrations, areas of emphasis, program development in line with the big ideas/themes.
- Invest in an internal institute to bring together scholars from the humanities and social sciences to explore big ideas, such as those outlined above, and to learn about different approaches and initiatives. Use this as the basis for grant getting, proposal development, pedagogical innovation. (An illustration: use a combination of departmental on-campus leaves, summer research funding and the like to provide resources to faculty, selected based on interest/application, to engage in such an institute – perhaps during summer months -- around a specific theme with an outcome being an integrated grant or fellowship proposal)
- Pursue a better balance between common, college-wide programming of “lightning rod events” and department specific programming, perhaps using a “block grant” model for program support/funding. (An illustration: Ask departments/units to put forward proposals for programming under the three Big Idea themes above and fund those that engage multiple partners/leverage resources; departments could still pursue their own programs but perhaps do fewer of them)
- Pursue a funding model for growing faculty and programs that requires departments and units to leverage existing resources. (An illustration: in requesting permission to hire for faculty lines, for instance if department has “lost” two faculty to retirement, hire one in an existing area of departmental need and propose the second in-line with the larger themes/Big Ideas.
- Pursue more space as it opens up around campus and the re-purposing of existing spaces but do not pursue commons type spaces if it means loss of office space. **New** spaces could be devoted to more communal and collaborative than private uses.

**Path Forward:** invite departments/units to participate in determining how to proceed, providing a clear indication of resources willing to invest leveraged against/with resource requests necessary to accomplish related goals/plans.

Revise document based on this feedback and input; take it to the leadership team in May, early June for review with eye to submission to the provost by the end of June