

## **Future Directions for the Fine Arts and Humanities at Stony Brook**

Meeting II Summary: Communication, Outreach & Funding – *June 16, 2005*

In Attendance: Dean Staros, Joseph Auner, Allegra de Laurentis, Amy Yopp Sullivan, Christa Erickson, Grady Gerbracht, Jane Sugarman, John Lutterbie, Mike Ledgerwood, Nicholas Rzhovsky, Peter Manning, Sarah Fuller, William Chittick, Wendy Katkin, James Rubin, Roman de la Campa, Karen Kernan

### **Topic 1: Strategies for Grants and other Funding for the Humanities and Fine Arts**

We have been very successful in obtaining individual fellowships, but there has been less emphasis on grants. While there have been some major successes, there have also been discouraging experiences. Many humanists focus on individual research projects which have been the cornerstone of promotion and tenure; they will need encouragement and clear benefits to be attracted to collaborative projects. It was also pointed out that we need to not overestimate the amount of research funding available for humanities and fine arts. Some organizations, such as the Social Science Research Council, are becoming more restrictive on the projects they will fund.

- We need more centralized help locating possible sources of funding, guidance and staff support in crafting successful proposals, and clear institutional commitment. Examples were given of the level of success in humanities grants at UCLA and Berkeley corresponding to the considerable advance staff.
- Dean Staros announced that the new Director for Advancement in the College is in the process of setting up individual visits with each department chair. One of the important agenda items of these visits will be to discuss departmental priorities for the Capital Campaign that will be used to help synthesize the College of Arts and Sciences campaign statement. Jane Macarthur will continue in the office; there are plans to hire an additional person to focus on the Fine Arts.
- Linda Merians of the Stony Brook Foundation has also been generating grant activity, including a substantial Ford Foundation proposal on “Difficult Dialogues” around religious and cultural pluralism. Over twenty faculty from across the college were involved in the proposal.
- Wendy Katkin reported on sources for large-scale grants including
  - Lumina, which has supported diversity initiatives that would be suitable for Stony Brook
  - Mellon, has focused on private institutions, but has funded library initiatives; Peter Manning suggests we should also investigate their post-doctoral programs
  - Rockefeller, which has funded the LACS.

- NEH – Challenge Grant Program -We need to find ways to sustain commitment.
- Dean Staros discussed alumni fundraising, which should be coordinated through his advancement office.
- Nicholas Rzehevsky emphasized the need to pursue smaller state and local funding sources.
- James Rubin discussed various models for using faculty working groups, junior faculty grants, post-leave working groups as ways to seed collaborations that could lead

## **Topic 2 Outreach and Communication**

- Wendy Katkin reported on the ongoing humanities initiative of the Reinvention Center. This team of scholars has already developed extensive materials about integrating undergraduate research into humanities education and for ways to bring the humanities to a broader public.

Documents are available at: <http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/Reinventioncenter/>

- She discussed an in process NEH proposal for funding to develop a template for an interdisciplinary course on Moments of Discovery. The course will focus on acts of creation and intellectual breakthroughs as well as the social and cultural framework that give the movements of discovery and impact. The grant is to support workshops to design the templates and to prepare web-based resources so that a wide-range of institutions would be able to adapt the course for their specific needs.
- - Karen Kernan, director of URECA discussed the program for supporting undergraduate research projects including on-campus work and travel grants. . A list of recent projects listing faculty who supported them is attached. Christa Erickson commented on the rewards of working with students in the program. Karen Kernan also coordinates faculty supervision of high school student's research projects. We should have more faculty in the Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Science involved in supervising projects for talented high-school students comparable to the many Intel projects in the sciences.
- Amy Sullivan reported on her efforts to establish a Center for Worlds Arts and Performance that would bridge community members, the university, and artists and performers to be an incubator for creativity, art-making, and performance.