

**Future Directions in the Humanities and Fine Arts:  
Roundtable III, June 21, 12:30-2:00  
Proposals for Discussion**

**I. Where should the Humanities and Fine Arts at Stony Brook be heading over the next five-ten years?**

1. Form a faculty-led Fine Arts, Humanities, Social Science Steering Committee. AAU has several examples of how such a steering group can function and both small and large-scale initiatives that can result.
2. Further integrate Humanities and Fine Arts into long-range planning for Stony Brook Manhattan, Gyrodyne and Southampton, including dedicated facilities (teaching space, studio space, etc) as well as integrated into other units, such as the Center for Wireless Technology.
3. Pursue a major initiative of “cluster hires” on some of the themes described in item II, without sacrificing departmental strengths and disciplinary difference. Interdisciplinary efforts depend on strong departments.
4. Continue FAHSS initiatives to improve communications between departments, encouraging faculty interaction, building an intellectual community, and facilitating working groups and interdisciplinary workshops. Listserve and webpage are launching this summer.
5. Work toward more interdisciplinary graduate formations, building on models already well established in the sciences. Stony Brook can be a leader in this area; Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies has already demonstrated one successful model. An Interdisciplinary Program in Globalization, that would build on our strengths in this area in Sociology, global literature, media, and cultures.
6. Continue to expand the number of undergraduates involved in research through URECA, Reinvention Center, and other programs. Design events and activities (conferences, symposia, exhibitions, lecture series) to include undergraduate components. Update university reporting mechanisms to track humanities and fine arts research more effectively.
7. Link interdisciplinary curricular initiatives to Undergraduate Colleges, this would also serve to help with the articulation between Freshman colleges and the second and third years.
8. Coordinate and expand outreach efforts K-12, music programs, student film, social science research projects, etc. Expand outreach and coordination with other Long Island Cultural Institutions.
9. Increase the number of endowed chairs, large grants, postdoctoral fellowships, and fundraising; continue to expand university infrastructure to support these efforts.

**II. What are the new research directions that span multiple disciplines? What topics, theoretical models, methodologies will shape the next decade? What are the most significant gaps in our research and teaching expertise?**

1. A major initiative of “cluster hires” could energize the campus, aid in recruiting and retention, build on current strengths while developing new cutting-edge research and teaching expertise, and facilitate interactions in CAS and across the university (CEAS, COB, MSRC, HSC, SPD, BNL).
2. Many of the proposed themes should help make the faculty better reflect the diversity of our student body.
3. Design positions to contribute to the overall teaching mission of the university and the many interdisciplinary formations (undergraduate colleges, Honors College, Cinema and Cultural Studies, Women’s Studies, etc).
4. Some possible thematic areas for cluster hires that have been proposed:
  - African and African-American Studies
  - Asian and Asian-American Studies
  - Social and Historical studies of Science and Technology (Science Studies)
  - Digital Arts, Media, and Technology
  - Urban-Suburban studies /public art/space/city cluster
  - Eco-Criticism, Sustainability, and the Environment
  - Area Studies (modeled on LACS): for example, Middle East, Eastern Europe, etc.
  - Globalization
  - Religious Studies
  - Classics (Greek, Latin, Arabic language, literature and civilization)
  - Foreign language and cultural instruction

**III. Where are the most urgent funding needs and where would new resources have the most impact? What are the specific gaps in funding:**

1. TA Stipends need to keep pace with our competitors. We need more TA lines and TA support for a longer period.
2. Junior Faculty Development and Support Better support for research support, travel funds, library resources. Target portion of Faculty Staff and Capital Campaign to junior faculty.
3. Expand support for library acquisitions for Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social Sciences.
4. Research Funds, including subventions for faculty publications as part of a coordinated response to crisis in university presses.
5. Faculty Housing initiative to aid in recruitment and retention and to build community. Expand mortgage support program, down payment loans, invest in nearby housing, and build faculty housing.