

Future Directions for the Fine Arts and Humanities at Stony Brook

I. Humanities at Stony Brook - Thursday, June 9, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

1. What are the distinctive features at the Humanities at Stony Brook (CAS, Humanities Institute, Cultural Studies, Women's Studies, Area Studies, etc.)
2. In what ways do the Humanities contribute to the mission of the University and its distinctive profile?
3. Do we fully take advantage of the strengths and resources of the University in other areas (CEAS, COB, MSRC, HSC, SPD)?
4. What are the non-academic impediments to interdisciplinary work, including administrative structure support staff, library issues
5. What are the obstacles to constructive contacts and collaboration with scholars at other institutions?
6. What could Stony Brook do better in terms of maintaining and improving areas of special significance to the Humanities:
 - a. Foreign language and cultural instruction
 - b. Digital information and technology
 - c. Libraries and university presses

II. Communication, Outreach, Funding - Thursday, June 16, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

1. How can we better communicate research in the Humanities?
2. Have we been successful in expanding the number of undergraduates involved in research?
3. How can/does Stony Brook develop relations with the larger community that are relevant to humanistic research?
4. Are there ways to make our research (as represented in publications, lectures, conferences, and events) useful and relevant for a broader public, including K-12.
5. What are the impediments to outreach activities (in terms of staff support, coordination, reward structures)?
6. Where are the most urgent funding needs and where would new resources have the most impact? What are the specific gaps in funding (for example, TA support, junior faculty research support, etc.)
7. What types of support are needed for grants and other funding?
8. What should be the elements of a new funding strategy?

III. Future Directions - Tuesday, June 21, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

1. Where should the Humanities at Stony Brook be going over the next five-ten years?
2. Are there new research directions that span multiple disciplines? What topics, theoretical models, methodologies will shape the next decade?
3. What are the most significant gaps in our research and teaching expertise?
4. What is the appropriate balance between interdisciplinary formations and traditional departments?
5. How will interdisciplinary formations affect graduate education?
6. What are the key factors in the success in interdisciplinary units?
7. What are the key factors in retaining Humanities faculty?

Recommendations

1. University presidents and chancellors should make the humanities a major focus in institutional strategic planning, and should regularly emphasize to the university and the broader community the fundamental importance of the humanities.
2. University presidents, provosts, and humanities deans should seek out, enlist, and support faculty leadership in building strong humanities programs, and should provide mechanisms for evaluating and selectively funding faculty-driven initiatives.
3. Universities should strengthen the recruitment and placement process for humanities graduate students and should seek ways to encourage undergraduate students to study the humanities.
4. University presidents, provosts, and humanities deans should provide flexible structures for interaction and collaboration across humanities disciplines, and among the humanities and the social and natural sciences and the professional schools.
5. Universities should promote successful programs in the humanities inside and outside the institution, and build partnerships with K-12 schools and other educational and cultural organizations.
6. Universities should seek new opportunities to strengthen foreign language and cultural instruction.
7. University presidents, provosts, and humanities deans should support the development and use of digital information and technology in the humanities.
8. University presidents, provosts, and humanities deans should take responsibility for sustaining the vigor and quality of humanities scholarship and its dissemination and preservation through book publishing and other appropriate communication mechanisms.
9. University presidents, provosts, and humanities deans should provide funding for selected strategic initiatives in the humanities and encourage and support outside fundraising.
10. AAU and the leaders of its universities should work with other universities and organizations in a concerted effort to increase funding for the humanities through the federal government and private foundations.