

Strategic Planning Update for the College of Liberal Arts February 4, 2005

All achievements below relate to goals and objectives in the college's Fall 2003 Area Plan and to the five CLA Benchmarks established in initial form during fall 2004. We here present accomplishments within the framework of the University Strategic Plan.

I Offer the Best Undergraduate Experience in a Research University

College-wide: Liberal Arts units gathered the first round of data for learning outcomes in undergraduate programs and have begun making program changes based on the data as well as establishing learning goals for graduate programs. College-wide assessment data included results of our participation in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Some program changes cited below are supported by the seven Teaching and Learning awards from the Provost's Office for 2004–05 and by Mary Bloodsworth-Lugo and now Jeanne Johnson's membership in the President's Teaching Academy.

- **Anthropology** adopted a course requirement emphasizing research and has added internships to complement its existing field school program. The department created a departmental Assessment Committee, including in its tasks review of NSSE data.
- **Communication** now has about 70% of the equipment for its new building, having secured discounts and contributions from Sony, Avid, and the Washington State Association of Broadcasters. Facilities include research technology supporting laboratory and other research projects by students. Senator Patty Murray has arranged with the School to hire a student public relations intern.
- **Comparative Ethnic Studies** developed its learning goal assessment rubric and now requires an internship of its majors. CES has begun development of an EPortfolio process for its majors.
- **English** completed its revision of the undergraduate curriculum, streamlining 6 options to 4, increasing major enrollment from 230 to 271, and supporting student publication and presentation of literary research and creative writing.
- **Fine Arts** full professors are now teaching foundations courses in the major. The unit is adding a second community college articulation agreement for transfers. Two new student scholarships have been endowed.
- **Foreign Languages** collaborations produced the “Spanish for Health Professionals” course, an on-campus student recruitment event titled *International Education Week*, connection of languages with several professions (T&L grant project), and Engineering/Architecture inclusion of language in the GER.
- **General Studies** increased its internship and portfolio course enrollments in preparation for program assessment and worked with General Education and Career Services on its Assessment Plan. A senior exit survey will also be employed.
- **History** will hire an South Asia specialist this year as part of its emerging focus on World History. In significant revisions of its undergraduate curriculum, the department created a “history Colloquium” for research presentations and completed its revision of the two teacher preparation tracks – history and social studies.

- **Music** retained its national visibility in Jazz, being listed in two national journals as among the best places to study. Marching Band increased to 240+ and received an invitation to appear at President Bush's inauguration. WSU choirs will tour to Russia.
- **Philosophy** won the College Innovation Award for its seminar course, bringing students into intensive interaction with important scholars through the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference.
- **Political Science** awarded 15 undergraduate scholarships and sponsors about 60 interns per year. The department implemented its rejuvenation of the Criminal Justice program via DDP.
- **Psychology** established the position of undergraduate program coordinator and added service learning requirements in two additional courses. Enrollment of majors has increased 25%. The department increased the number of undergraduate research awards.
- **Sociology** expanded internship offerings in summer session. Lisa McIntyre will receive the Sahlin Teaching Award. In addition, the department is competing the phase-in of signature courses offered by most-qualified faculty and will connect its learning outcomes with career outcomes. The chair has been asked by ASA to serve on an advisory panel related to this learning/careers pairing.
- **Theatre** production of "Crimes of the Heart" has been selected for ACTF/NWDF appearance in Ashland and its director, Stan Brown, received an ACTF Certificate of Excellence in directing.

II Nurture a World Class Environment for Research, Scholarship, the Arts, Graduate Education, and Engagement

Several College-wide:

Secured second-round federal funding for the Plateau Center for American Indian Studies. Ron Pond, Umatilla elder, received from WSU his Interdisciplinary Doctorate and now serves as Interim Director of the Center. The first Plateau studies conference, "Honoring the Heritage of the Plateau People," September 29–30, 2004, drew over 250 attendees representing over a dozen tribes. Collaboration with the tribes will now focus on assessment of their capacity to implement distance and technology-based instruction in their local settings.

Dr. L. L. Cavalli-Sforza, human geneticist, was selected as the **2005 Holland Lecturer**. His candidacy was supported by nominators from several departments and two colleges, a significant multi-unit accomplishment.

External Funding potential has significantly increased, in part via the "Trips to D.C." initiative, with particularly successful visits by faculty in Communication, Political Science, and Sociology. Federal agencies and national foundations, including NSF, NIH, NSGS, DoI, USFS, BLM, SOROS Foundation, and others are funding or inviting proposals from the College. A D.C. (or New York) Trip for the Arts is planned for 2005-06.

- **Anthropology** currently leads research funded by the BLM, NSF, Bureau of Reclamation, and others. The Lipe Visiting Lecturer event will again bring a world renowned scholar to campus.

- **Communication** admitted 6 top quality doctoral students and, as a second year program, is already ranking ahead of such institutions as Colorado, Texas at Austin, and Missouri-Columbia in graduate degree specializations.
- **Comparative Ethnic Studies** is leading an effort to re-energize the “Who Speaks for America” series, seeking cooperation with parallel and significant programs in Seattle. The unit continues its campus visiting speaker series and has added faculty colloquia and opportunities for student research presentations.
- **English** raised the average GRE and GPA of its entering graduate class and increased the class size by 13%. Victor Villanueva will receive the Sahlin Research Award.
- **Fine Arts** brought six visiting artists through its Forst Endowed Fund.
- **Foreign Languages** followed its chair’s involvement in the Provost’s Tour D’Etat a film festival in Walla Walla and appointment of four of its graduate students to teach Spanish in Walla Walla in intensity courses. Negotiations in Wenatchee for graduate student teaching opportunities and a Spanish course for Washington State Police nearly complete.
- **Music** faculty received composer commissions from the New York Composers Project and Centrum Creative Arts Program and appeared in performances several states and foreign countries.
- **Philosophy** will host Naom Chomsky for its annual Potter Lecture. The department exceeded its expected enrollment in the new MA program and initiated a bio-ethics courses in collaboration with the Biotechnology Center.
- **Political Science** faculty are active in leading GRACe. The new Criminal Justice PhD is helping the unit to increase its national ranking and visibility. DGSS began active research use of the Stowell Data Sets. The Foley Institute leads a number of efforts on public policy, American government, and environment and social issues.
- **Psychology** double the number of experimental psychology graduate applicants and enrolled a higher percentage of most qualified candidates. The number of external grant applications increased 50% and total dollar awards increased 100% to date.
- **Sociology** has revised its departmental foci to include social institutions, crime and deviancy, community/demography/environmental sociology, political sociology, social psychology and life, social inequality. The unit increased its number of grant proposals and its number of TAs funded by research.
- **Speech and Hearing Sciences** faculty received national awards, editorial notice, and career advancement funding from two premiere journals and the foremost national SHS professional organization.
- **Theatre** has prepared a major evaluation of its physical facilities with hopes of restoring the theatre production infrastructure.

III Develop a Shared Commitment to Quality in All of Our Activities

College-wide: Liberal Arts is focusing on several interdisciplinary work groups. The most active of these include gender research, environment and social equity, and the arts. All of these groups involve efforts across departmental as well as college boundaries. The college continued its tradition of honoring faculty authors and artists and faculty and student achievement through its Authors’ Recognition Ceremony, Outstanding Senior Brunch, and College Recognition Ceremony. Through a difficult set of discussions, the College decided to proceed with 18 of its 22 faculty searches for the year, thereby setting the stage for eventual achievement of increased

numbers of full professors. These same budget discussions resulted in implementation of a strategy to make early offers for TAs, relying on both permanent budget lines and anticipated temporary funding. Across the college, several staff making essential and beyond-the-call contributions were upgraded in the classified system or converted to administrative professional employees.

- **Comparative Ethnic Studies** will hold its first CES Student Conference in April 2005, emphasizing the role of CES and its responsibilities to the community.
- **Political Science** faculty successfully competed for WSU Collaboration grants and engaged with significant success in the partnership with ICU.
- **Theatre, VPLAC, and English** engaged the Nobel Laureate playwright Wole Soyinka for an appearance in conjunction with WSU Theatre's production of his play *Death and the King's Horseman*, receiving Humanities Washington grant support for Soyinka's visit.

IV Create an Environment of Trust and Respect in All We Do

College-wide: The nine-member Dean's Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (DACRA) and Dean's Staff expanded annual review of unit plans to include development strategies, leading to an integrated plan for fundraising through the WSU Foundation. The August 2004 College Leadership Retreat and subsequent meetings emphasized effective responses to University Benchmarking, Assessment/Accreditation, and Accountability efforts, direct involvement in development of the Academic Plan and discussions of college realignment, and responsible allocation of resources to move toward balancing the college's budget.

- **Anthropology** returned excavated collections to the Hoonah Tribal Association, continuing its work with native peoples in preserving their heritage in sensitive ways.
- **Communication** offered new courses on advanced intercultural communication and reactivated its faculty advisory committee to the director.
- **Comparative Ethnic Studies** has shifted focus to transnational and global approaches that are cutting edge as the discipline moves away from on specific ethnic and racial groups.
- **Fine Arts** is rebuilding its departmental faculty through mentoring and completion of two hires this year, with additional faculty hires planned the following year.
- **Political Science** efforts in DGSS, the Vancouver Master's in Public Affairs, and the Criminal Justice graduate degrees continue to build strong relationships with communities throughout the state.