

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
Washington State University

Strategic Plan Implementation Update

July 28, 2006

1. The undergraduate and graduate experience, Scholarship and Research Foci, Societal Impact

The CLA allocated 9 new positions during 2005-06 with appointments to be effective either fall 2006 or fall 2007. Three of the positions are in arts and culture fields (music – Crimson Review; theatre – funds distributed to build infrastructure in the program; Plateau Center – permanent funding for a faculty position). Three are related to scientific inquiry in highly prioritized areas (philosophy – Bio-ethics; Anthropology – molecular anthropology; Psychology – child/adolescent clinical psychology). Three are in areas that will strongly support diversity efforts (Women’s Studies – GBLT studies; Political Science – international politics; English – ESL). These position allocations reflect the College’s structural approach to addressing important issues through the Public Academy (who we are), the Murrow Legacy (how we interact), and the Integrated Arts Initiative (what we create). Among proposals cited in #2 below, one particularly project cuts across several university goals: Tim Kohler, as PI with colleagues from the School of Biological Sciences, received a \$500,000 **IGERT** grant from the National Science Foundation.

2. Scholarship and Research

The CLA submitted increased numbers of proposals for funding during FY2006, moving from 49 to 53 external proposals and 11 to 62 internal proposals. More striking was the success rate. During FY2005, approved funding totaled just over \$1 Million for 39 approved proposals. In FY2006, total approved funding was \$4,454,232 for 61 approved proposals – an increase of 450% in dollars and 50% in approved proposals. To support continued growth in such funding, associate deans Paul Whitney and Susan Ross met with all departments and recommended formation of a Proposal Support Team. This team will be implemented during FY2007 to include OGRD budget support, foundation research support, and proposal writing support. While we can not necessarily anticipate another 400%+ increase of

funding over FY2006, the CLA will benchmark its five-year average as a measure of continuing success in external proposal approval.

3. Commitment to Quality, Trust and Respect

To achieve the above targets, the CLA moved forward from its FY2005 Expenditure Reduction exercise to focus on a selected number of priorities. These will emerge more clearly from initial suggestions of five focal areas: equity/diversity/social justice, communication across cultures and media, the arts and understanding of world cultures, environmental studies, and public policy. The three pillars (Public Academy, Murrow Legacy, Integrated Arts Initiative) blend well with these foci and have been used as the basis for the CLA's upcoming Campaign and for re-prioritization of the CLA's Major Capital Projects requests. An increased role for the Dean's Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation, more open distribution of budget information, and recommendations from the Implementation Team for realignment/reshaping of the CLA demonstrate the CLA's commitment to proactive and positive contributions to the university and our extended constituencies.