

September 26, 2014

Humanities Center Meeting

Minutes

In attendance: Sharran Parkinson, Don Lavigne, Jennifer Snead, Jorgelina Orfila, Brian Steele, Chris Smith, Alan Barenberg, Dorothy Chansky, Rachel Vaughan (note taker), Rob Stewart (ex officio)

- **Major Points:**
  - Critical element
  - Allied but different
  - Humanities working with cognate disciplines (we all like “cognate,” since it doesn’t blatantly invoke “STEM”
  - Humanities ARE important and we want to give that impression
- We have \$50,000, so where is that money going? This amount far too low, how can we do something significant?
- Provost/President could negotiate extra money.
- We need a mission and mission statement (Chris Smith)
  - Enhance visibility; positive image; we want people to think of how we can facilitate and coordinate with them rather than how we can take their money
- Jorgelina suggested the idea of giving some kind of support in the summer, so the when the fall comes around we already have something to show that we’ve done
- Dorothy brings up again that we need to consider where we want to get to, and what the first steps should be to get there
  - We want this to serve all levels (graduate, undergrad, faculty, etc) and last for a long time
- We all agree the tradition definition of “humanities” needs to be reworked, toss around the idea of picking a different word, then agree we need “humanities”
  - We want to make as visible as possible “the humanities”
  - “in the moment”; what is this interdisciplinarity and why do we need it?
  - Language should encourage colleges to say they see how they fit with us
- *We can all have fruitful dialogues*
- We want something other than “partner” or “interdisciplinary,” something that invites the reader to ask how they could be a cognate
- Chris Smith assigned “35 words of beauty” for next meeting
- So again, where do we want to end up?
  - We will need more than \$50K
  - Center for innovation, “cutting edge,”

- Possibility of colleges and corporations buying into the center, making an investment in it (but how could we get them to be interested in doing so?)
- Possible money maker: corporations invest with the center and request a product/service
  - We seek to author language that doesn't preclude this
  
- **Wishlist**
  - Space
  - Infrastructural support, including staff hours
  - Modern promotions, such as videos, ads, etc
  - Support for grant writing (both authoring and time)
  - Stipends for travel
  - Annual calendar event we would host
  - Promotions for faculty and grad student publications
  - Ongoing annual forum
  - Grad student awards
  - Development team
  - Postdocs
  - Ways to earn money once we are established
  - *Survey course of the humanities (preferably taught by senior faculty to give that valuable contact to freshmen; each instructor take a section so both teaching and grading hours are shared; university requirement rather than college/department)*
  - Undergraduate research center
  - Performance as Research
  - Annual topic with guest scholars
  - Endowed lecture share
  - Book series published by the center through TTU Press
- We want to make sure we're not stepping on toes of existing entities, but rather inviting or collaborating with them, or staying away from them – we don't want to ignore anyone that might want to be involved (Don charged with looking into this)
- Next time: what's already there (Don)? What will “buy in” mean?
- Possibly talk about money the meeting after next