

Social Science Chairs Friday March 16, 2007

SUMMARY

Jim Buckley, Amanda Thomas, Jen Lowry, Jai Ryu, Barbara Vann, Hank Hilton, Suzanne Keilson

Prior work with the social science chairs was reviewed. Barbara was welcomed on board as incoming chair of Sociology. Michael Franz was not able to attend the meeting but would be the “flag bearer” for a strategic plan for the social sciences because he is the faculty representative on the Loyola Conference and thus will be involved in the general strategic planning and because he was the other of an earlier proposal for a center for the social sciences.

It was again emphasized that the social sciences should look for partnerships and focus with urban studies, community work, the work of the CCSJ, the Clinical Centers, Education and Speech departments. The question was raised whether Education going to its own school would have an impact, but that should not affect the ability to have such cross-disciplinary partnerships and collaborations. Urban studies would probably not be proposed as a new major, perhaps a minor, there already exists gender studies. It was also suggested that in some way the social sciences could build on the Year of the City and its related activities. It was suggested that Heather Lyons, Robin Crews, Mickey Fenzel and Steve Walters might be good resources.

Jai Ryu emphasized that he would like something about technology, society and cultural change in any vision and strategic plan for the social sciences.

Nancy Dufau had done earlier preliminary work for this group on the nature of social science centers at other schools across the country. The chairs would like her to help look into center details such as staffing, funding, perhaps picking 3 or 4 centers to detail.

The importance of this work is to sharpen a focus and identity for the social sciences. Some foci might be community, social justice, partnering with CCSJ, partnering with the Clinical Centers, technology, urban life, other themes?

Jim Buckley suggested another meeting by the end of April with Jai Ryu and Michael Franz for the purpose of drafting a vision statement that can be vetted by the departments and provide a framework for strategic planning.

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.