



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Frontiers in Humanities and Arts Grant Program Proposal

June 13, 2012

The Vice Chancellor-Research, Harris Lewin, has asked the Committees on Research and Planning and Budget to opine concerning the program proposal. Other comments are welcome. We apologize for the short turnaround.

Elections, Rules & Jurisdiction

June 13, 2012 5:19 PM

No response at this time.

Graduate Council

May 29, 2012 2:23 PM

No response at this time.

Planning & Budget

June 15, 2012 9:20 AM

CPB has reviewed the IFHA proposal. We have two comments.

1. A due date of November 12 with a release date in October is unrealistic if carefully planned projects are to be created. Almost all faculty involved here are on 9 month contracts so it does not make sense to send anything out over the summer, unless it is an early notice of what is coming. CPB recommends sending out the RFP in early October with a due date in early December.
2. The document needs to reflect the comments made by Vice-Chancellor Lewin at the CPB meeting, that is, that sustainability beyond the three years does not necessarily mean raising matching or ongoing funds. To imply that it does will discourage lots of potential applications from those with no prospects for fund raising. Page 4 viii might then read as follows: "If sustainability beyond the grant period requires more funding, indicate where such funds might come from. If sustainability is cost-free, e.g. if a long-term collaboration, outreach or ongoing programmatic impact is envisaged, describe how the project will likely evolve in these directions after the initial grant period. Alternatively, if the project will fulfill its aims within three years, describe its potential impact upon completion". This could just replace section viii in the current version.

In addition, CPB recommends that Vice-Chancellor Lewin contact the Academic Senate early in the process of such programs. This would ease the review process and allow more in depth review. In addition, the Academic Senate should be viewed as a resource of information rather than a barrier to overcome. Collaboration early will result in a better outcome for the campus.

Research

June 13, 2012 5:19 PM

The Committee on Research has reviewed the Interdisciplinary Frontiers in the Humanities and Arts Program (IFHA) Proposal. The proposed IFHA framework will facilitate the formation and enhancement of interdisciplinary teams in the Humanities and Social Sciences to conduct collaborative research. All of the seed funds are generated by overhead indirect cost returns generated by external grants made to UC Davis under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Although COR agrees that the IFHA program may be an effective way to spend the ARRA funding, the committee does maintain some concerns.

For future programs like IFHA, COR would like to better understand how the interaction between the arts and sciences will be encouraged. Careful thought should be given to the reality that faculty in the humanities and arts do not traditionally think of their research in terms of collaborative projects. In addition, some COR members felt that the IFHA program was better suited for faculty in the Humanities and Arts and not faculty in the Social Sciences.

Additionally, given the high degree of Academic Senate involvement in the activities that generated the IFHA funds and the IFHA ventures that move forward, it would have been appropriate for the Academic Senate to be involved formally in the strategic discussions about how the funds would be allocated from the beginning of the process. The Drafting Committee included several Senate faculty from HARCS and Social Sciences; however, it did not include any members from the Committee on Research. In the future, these types of new ventures should include formal COR representation on the committees that select target areas for similar proposals, design the review criteria for similar proposals, and select external proposal review committees.

Finally, COR would like to point out that Academic Senate review and input on these types of proposals is crucial. Therefore, the committee requests a reasonable turnaround time for future proposals to fully review and evaluate the proposal and provide useful comments.