

**Humanities Working Group
Minutes
December 5, 2005
2-4 P.M.
354 Tigert Hall**

Attendees:

Kirk Ludwig

Bob Hatch

Barbara Barletta

Pramod Khargonekar

John Leavey

Kim Tanzer

The meeting was called to order by Kim Tanzer at 2:07 P.M.

Kim Tanzer discussed the purpose of the Humanities Working Group. The group's general charge is to bring importance to the humanities at UF. Some difficulties professors in the humanities have faced are: Humanities typically do not conduct research in a way that is clear to upper administration. Also humanities professors may teach more classes than colleagues in the sciences. Also, sciences and engineering tend to have more national benchmarking possibilities like the National Academy.

The goal is to teach the possibilities of humanities. The group will help learn how to tell the story of humanities, understand the culture of benchmarking and list awards and grants for humanities comparable to research grants in the sciences.

The group participated in self introductions.

John Leavey and Pramod Khargonekar are co-chairs of the committee.

Dr. Leavey is the chair of the Task Force for the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere in CLAS (Bob Hatch is the Interim Director for the Center) and Dr. Khargonekar is Dean of the College of Engineering.

Dr. Khargonekar suggested that the group research the top ranked universities in the humanities and determine what makes their programs great, also what impact humanities can have on students and how experiences in humanities have impacted representatives of other top universities.

Kim Tanzer suggested that the group report progress to the senate or discuss humanities at a senate sponsored workshop in the Spring.

The committee is interested in inviting the Provost to meetings for discussion once progress has been made.

The committee needs to ask “What suggestions can we make to change the administrative structure to provide advocacy for humanities?”

John Leavey passed out a document produced by the AAU “Reinvigorating the Humanities”

It was suggested that the group look into involving students in research to aid in the education experience.

Kim Tanzer said that from the University point of view the committee should be able to tell administrators how humanities can help move UF to top 10.

Dr. Khargonekar suggested developing a relationship between humanities and Jane Adams’s office to get positive stories regarding humanities into the media.

The group will work on creating a list of faculty members who have received awards and who are prominent scholars. The group will also track graduates like the College of Engineering does.

The group will research what colleagues pay attention to (awards or publications, etc.) and how that is communicated in an effort to build peer reputation.

A committee member asked if there any potential areas for collaborative opportunities with engineering and medicine.

Kirk Ludwig outlined goals for the committee:

1. What the role of humanities are at the university and why it is important. (Look at top tier to determine what are they doing right and compare to UF)
2. Figure out what to do with these answers. Perhaps it will mean implementing structural changes.
3. Look at long-term and determine what can be done emphasize resource use.
4. Think what institutional changes the committee can bring about for sustained assistance with humanities.

The group discussed names of faculty members that may be helpful on the committee. The meeting adjourned at 4:09 P.M.