

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



December 4, 2017

Emerging Areas in the Humanities Strategy Task Force

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| Antoinette Burton, Chair | Justine Murison |
| Ruth Nicole Brown | Carl Niekerk |
| Eric Calderwood | Naomi Paik |
| Cara Finnegan | Anke Pinkert |
| Sam Frost | Gabriel Solis |
| Harriett Green | Nora Stoppino |
| Christopher Higgins | Angeliki Tzanetou |
| Jonathan Inda | Terri Weissman |
| Isabel Molina | Kirstin Wilcox |
| Bob Morrissey | Martin Camargo, <i>ex officio</i> |

Dear Colleagues:

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has seen tremendous change and progress over the last three years in Emerging Areas in the Humanities arena. The Humanities Working Group outlined a strategy for Humanities on campus. The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities was moved to a better facility in the Levis Building where it can encourage more engagement. Humanities Without Walls is serving as an international model for humanities research. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded grants to support fellowships for Illinois faculty and graduate students to help create robust research groups in Bio-Humanities, Environmental Humanities, and Legal Humanities.

To further build on this progress, to contribute to our next phase of strategic planning, and to create the best possible foundation for future success in this area, we are initiating the development of a comprehensive strategy for Emerging Areas in the Humanities research, education and engagement.

Based on consultation with campus leadership, including the Deans and Institute Directors with whom you are associated, you have been identified to contribute critically to this process by serving on the Emerging Areas in the Humanities Strategy Task Force. Antoinette Burton has agreed to lead the Task Force, whose efforts will culminate in a report.

In carrying out its strategy making effort, the task force should explicitly address the following:


- In what areas does Illinois have the greatest opportunity to positively impact state, national and global Emerging Areas in the Humanities through research, education and engagement?
- What opportunities and challenges do we face in humanities-related research and education over the next five to ten years?
- What specific actions would be most effective in realizing our potential in Emerging Areas in the Humanities education, research and engagement? What new investments would be necessary to implement those actions? What funding can be redistributed? What synergies can be established to capitalize on funding already in place? Please distinguish short-(2 years), medium-(3-5 years), and long-term horizons-(5-10 years) for the actions.
- How can we better leverage our research strengths to enhance the university's educational mission in humanities-related fields?
- The Emerging Areas in the Humanities present many opportunities for community engagement. How best can we engage our local community through the humanities?


Your team might wish to consider additional questions to help guide the development of multiple strategies for Emerging Areas in the Humanities at our institution. In producing the comprehensive strategy, we ask that you develop, at the outset of your efforts, a process for engaging key internal and external stakeholders and drawing on the diversity of disciplinary expertise on the campus.

We would like to receive your presentation as an initial report no later than January 15, 2018; and we would like to invite a representative of your group to a broader planning meeting on January 26, 2018 to present your initial findings. A report will be due in February, 2018. Please contact Staci Provezis (sprovez2@illinois.edu) in the Provost's Office with questions or requests that emerge during your review.

We appreciate your willingness to serve on this task force.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Jones
Chancellor


John P. Wilkin
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic
Affairs and Provost

c: S. Provezis