

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

LEADERSHIP MEETING

4:00pm Monday, October 6, 2025
CRUC 314

Notes

In attendance: Laura Mentore, Melina Patterson, Zach Whalen, Jonathan Levin, Miriam Liss, Marcel Rotter, Claudine Ferrell, Mindy Erchull, Keith Mellinger, Meredith O'Connell, Julia DeLancey

- I. Announcements
 - A. Office Managers
 1. Verbal offer accepted for one position
 2. Requisition awaiting approval for second position
 - B. Chair Compensation
 1. Collecting ideas before next meeting on November 10th.
 2. Need university-wide policy and college level policy
 3. There needs to be a conversation about issues that need cleanup in the faculty handbook.

- II. Medical Humanities Minor
 - A. Has potential to grow in to something bigger
 - B. Need ideas for more courses
 - C. Proliferation of these types of programs across the country
 1. Transformation – no longer focused only on natural sciences
 2. Minor could be a lot more than a minor
 - D. Structure of minor
 1. 18 credits
 2. 1 from a list of 3 – 4 designated “foundation” courses
 3. Plus 5 electives from at least 3 different disciplines
 4. No capstone
 - E. Conducting a course inventory now
 1. Input from your departments needed
 2. Significant potential to develop a larger program over time
 3. Connection with medical school initiative
 - F. Goal is complete medical humanities proposal by the end of the month

Discussion:

 - Has committee considered any disability courses?
Dr. Mentore: Yes

- III. Humanities Center Workshop

- A. Draft proposal for center
 - 1. Excerpt from rationale
 - 2. Final version will be product of the workshop
- B. 3 key functions of the center
 - 1. Curricular innovation
 - 2. Career preparedness
 - 3. Public engagement and community outreach
- C. Need for Humanities Center at UMW
 - 1. Faculty and students are involved in significant public outreach without Institutional support targeted to the Humanities
 - 2. In 2024 – 25 only 5% of declared Humanities majors held an internship
 - 3. Many programs and majors would benefit
 - 4. Fundraising
- D. Draft mission statement
- E. Humanities Center Symposium held on October 16th, 8:30 am to 4 pm
 - 1. Guest speakers: Andrew Falk, Jinny Turman, Cristina Stanciu, and Matthew Gibson
 - 2. Bring your ideas

IV. Pair and Share

- A. What is something unique or exciting happening in your department right now?
- B. What is one challenge your department faces that a school structure might help address?