



College of Charleston

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Cynthia Lowenthal, Dean
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
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March 25, 2009

Dear Dean Lowenthal:

I am enclosing herewith a list of recommendations suggested by the ad hoc committee appointed to consider improving the identity of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the College of Charleston.

Please feel free to contact me and/or any of the other committee members for further clarification or explanation.

Very truly yours,

E. Moore Quinn, Chair
E. Moore Quinn, Chair (quinne@cofc.edu)

Committee members:

Kathleen DeHaan (dehaank@cofc.edu)
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To: Cynthia Lowenthal, Dean
School of the Humanities and Social Sciences
College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina

From: Ad hoc Committee on Identity
Committee Chair: E. Moore Quinn
Committee Members: William Danaher, Kathleen DeHaan, Joseph Kelly, Kate Kenney-Newhard, Myra Seaman

Re: Identity Committee Report

Date: March 25, 2009

Summary:

*The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (hereinafter, HSS), which is composed of Liberal Arts and Sciences, represents a unification of disciplines in a Liberal Arts and Sciences setting. HSS deserves to be identified as a key component of the umbrella plan.

*Together with the School of Sciences and Mathematics (hereinafter SSM) HSS constitutes the *foundational center* of the College of Charleston; both represent its *core*.

*However, unlike SSM, HSS lacks a *recognizable presence* in terms of its size and in terms of its *fundamental and central importance* to the life of the campus.

Specific Suggestions:

Outlined below, in order of priority and in keeping with the committee's mandate, are six (6) paragraph-length "bullets" of the committee's vision for the future of HSS. The first three items should be considered as being of comparable significance:

1. A few committee members expressed a strong desire for the recognition of a "mega-school" of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Members noted that HSS, the biggest school offering the greatest number of courses, is central to the College.*
2. To offset the impression that the "periphery" of schools and initiatives has more prowess and visibility than HSS (a problem currently undermining HSS as "central" to the College), the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs (hereinafter, LCWA) will be housed within the fold of HSS. In addition, LCWA (and any other externally-supported theme-oriented initiatives) will be identified with a different set of organizing principles, such as "fundable units" and "centers."

*The creation of a "mega-school" might include bringing SSM within the domain of HSS.

For instance, future “fundable units” housed within HSS might include a “Center for Interdisciplinary Studies,” a “Center for Irish Studies,” a “Center for Peace Studies,” a “Center for Gender,” a “Center for Ageing,” etc. *

3. HSS needs a building or cluster of buildings that will insure that it has a physical identity and visible presence on campus. At the present time, HSS lacks these important markers. The committee noted that other schools on campus already have recognizable identities, symbolized by their buildings (for example, The Albert Simons Center for the Arts), and construction is underway for new ones (for example, The Marion and Wayland H. Cato Jr. Center for the Arts and the New Science Center). An HSS edifice will provide a symbol of the unification of the diverse disciplines that fall under the HSS /Liberal Arts and Sciences rubric. Such spatial togetherness will provide a salient sense of presence.
4. A slogan or label that characterizes succinctly HSS’s strengths and assets will be created to highlight the fact that HSS’s “loosely affiliated autonomous units” share a common home.
5. There will be a “daily awareness” that HSS and its Liberal Arts and Sciences emblem represent a central component of campus life. This greater visibility will be achieved in venues like the College’s homepage, which has the potential to inform viewers and the entire campus community repeatedly of HSS’s scope and mission.
6. In the future, “the global will be brought to the local” in a variety of ways. Possibilities include:
 - a. establishing a community day during which faculty present their research to a public audience;
 - b. involving faculty with incoming students;
 - c. emphasizing the importance of faculty in the education of College of Charleston students, and
 - d. searching for other resources like blogs and YouTube© to promote HSS.

Conclusion:

The fulfillment of these goals will insure that in the future there will be a strong emphasis on the College of Charleston as an esteemed Liberal Arts and Sciences College worthy of attending.

Respectfully submitted,



E. Moore Quinn, Chair

* This proposed solution will eliminate the present “turf war” that has developed as a result of the creation of LCWA. LCWA’s autonomous nature as an entity has led to confusion, competition and other unfortunate developments.