

# **Faculty of Arts and Humanities**

## **Academic Plan 2011-2015**

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a long tradition of academic excellence. The Faculty has recognized strengths in teaching, research and scholarship. It boasts a list of distinguished scholars who have been recognized locally, with Western's highest awards for teaching and research including Pleva and Hellmuth prizes. Internationally, the Faculty has a number of areas of established strength, and several areas where we are gaining recognition. Our goal is to be the academic destination of choice for Arts and Humanities students and scholars, from Canada and abroad.

### **Areas of Greatest Strength:**

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities contributes 2 of the 10 Signature Areas identified for The University of Western Ontario:

- Philosophy of Science
- Literary and Critical Theory

These continue to be areas of undisputed strength.

### **Existing and Emergent Areas of Strength:**

- Canadian Studies
- Classical Studies
- Cultural Complexity under Globalization
- Ethics
- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Integrated Studio Arts and Art Historical Studies
- Interdisciplinary Linguistics
- Language and Literature Studies in French
- Literary and Cultural Studies
- Moving Picture and Performance Studies
- Transatlantic (Hispanic) Studies
- Writing Studies

These are areas where we see potential for development and growth. The areas will rise in prominence as some of our junior scholars establish themselves more fully on the academic scene. As part of our Academic Plan we will continue to make every effort to recruit outstanding faculty into these areas. For the current academic cycle (2011-2012) we have made, or are making, appointments to support Studio Arts, Writing Studies, French Literature, Classical Studies, Philosophy of Science, and Feminist studies. More than one of these appointments crosses into Literary and Critical Theory and/or Literary and Cultural Studies.

## **Objectives of the Academic Plan for 2011-2015**

The objective of the Academic Plan for 2011-2015 is to present the strategic priorities that the Faculty of Arts and Humanities will rely on to consolidate, develop and enhance its tradition of academic excellence. These strategic priorities were developed in the context of the University Strategic Plan's focus on enhancing the quality of our undergraduate and graduate programs, raising our international profile, expanding our educational reach in the region and around the world, and enhancing support for our faculty and staff.

### **Enrolment planning, enrolment growth (preliminary remarks)**

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities plans to participate fully in the University's undertaking to expand its undergraduate population. This growth is desirable, but only if academic standards can be maintained. An expanded base of undergraduate students who see the Arts and Humanities as their academic home is the foundation of this academic plan.

To realize this goal, the Faculty will require support from central resources on three fronts.

First, continued and expanded funding for on-line course development so that we can meet the space, scheduling and degree requirements of an enlarged undergraduate cohort.

Second, continued and expanded support for international exchanges and other forms of experiential learning. Equally, the University must invest into the supports that will allow international students to succeed in their studies at Western.

Third, continued and expanded support for academic counselling in the Faculties, and for psychological and other support services delivered through Student Health and Student Development.

These three elements are crucial to maintaining Western's reputation for the "best student experience at a research intensive university." The focus on the student experience has served Western, and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, very well. But it will require investment on the part of the University to maintain the requisite social and institutional infrastructure. The Faculty's request, in the Academic Priorities Fund competition aims, in large part, to support this effort.

## **Strategic Priorities for Arts and Humanities for 2011-2015**

**Our strategic priorities at this time are:**

1. Aggressive Recruitment
2. E-Learning
3. Internationalization
4. New Academic Programs and Initiatives
5. Endowed Chairs/Professorships and other Campaign Priorities

## **Strategic Priority 1 – Aggressive Recruitment**

In 2011-2012, the Faculty will institute a new, comprehensive communications strategy. The Faculty will hire a communications officer (in addition to our full time Alumni Development Officer). As a preparatory step for a successful hire, the Faculty will work with the Office of the Vice-President External, and the Communications Office in particular, to secure a consultant who will help us design an integrated approach to communication across the Faculty. Clearly, this design will have to be integrated into the University's currently evolving plan, but we must highlight the Faculty's unique strengths and reach out to our specific constituency. We have to be able to speak to a range of audiences – prospective graduate and undergraduate students, current students, faculty, staff, and alumni. And we need to address those in the broader public who have a keen interest in Arts and Humanities education, scholarship and research. It is apparent that our current efforts in this direction do not do justice to the quality of scholarship and innovation that exists in the Faculty.

Recently, the Faculty and the Department of Philosophy had a very positive experience with a consulting firm in regard to the Rotman Institute of Philosophy. The consultants were able to focus, refine and amplify the Institute's communications in a way that has already paid dividends in terms of outreach, contacts, attendance at conferences/talks, applications for Postdoctoral fellowships, etc. Our goal will be to replicate this success at the level of the Faculty.

## **Strategic Priority 2 – E-learning**

Arts and Humanities is a leader at Western in the provision of on-line learning opportunities (see "Current On-Line Learning in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities" in the "Update" section of this submission). However, it is time to expand and develop our offerings. Our commitment to this area is supported by our APF proposal, which requests the creation of a permanent position in the Teaching Support Centre for an E-learning specialist. Furthermore, the Faculty has extensive plans for developing on-line courses and materials:

- ***Classical Studies***
  - Course planning and development during 2011-12 with a plan to offer one or two of the following in 2012-13, and in the future, possibly offer a Minor in Classical Studies on-line.
    - Latin 1000 (Introductory Latin)
    - Classics 1000 (Classical Civilization)
    - Classics 2800a/b (Greek and Latin Roots of English)
    - Classics 2200 (Greek and Roman Mythology) or 2300 (Sport, Recreation and Spectacle)
- ***English***
  - Given the popularity of offerings in American literature, theory, and cultural studies, plan to develop an on-line course in each of those areas.
- ***Film Studies***
  - Develop a .5 FCE that will serve an elective or distribution requirement as well as a recruitment course, as early as summer 2010.

- **French Studies**
  - Develop on-line versions of French 2200 and 3202 for the Certificat de Français
- **Visual Arts**
  - An on-line version of VAH1040 (History of Art and Visual Culture), a required course for all majors in the department, is currently being developed
  - Discussions initiated with incoming Department Chair to further develop the Western Art course comprising an on-line component (could include the current tutorials) and in-class lecture elements linked to the on-line content. VAH 1054F/G (Introduction to Visual Culture) lends itself to being restructured for full, on-line dissemination as it is not a core course and is open to non-majors. Other on-line initiatives being considered are a studio course in the area of digital photography and print culture
- **Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication Program**
  - Plan to increase offerings by one or two per year, with a long-term goal of making it possible to complete the Minor in Writing Studies on-line

### **Strategic Priority 3 – Expanded Internationalization**

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities is a strong proponent of the value of internationalization, most obviously through our teaching of languages. We support a number of international student exchanges, and have developed an experiential learning project in Rwanda.

In terms of our graduate students, fully 15% of our MA students and 21% of our PhD students in 2009-10 were international students. It is worth noting that these numbers fail to capture those students who elected to become Canadian permanent residents while working on their degrees. In effect the number of international students who chose to study in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities is considerably higher than the bare data suggests. Likewise, one should note the sheer *diversity* of our students. Arts and Humanities does not draw exclusively from a narrow band of institutions in a couple of select countries. We currently have students from every continent in the world (with the exception of Australia), and we are able to attract a significant number of American students.

We will continue to target international students by offering competitive funding packages. In addition, another aspect of our APF proposal supports the permanent hiring of an International Learning Specialist in the Teaching Support Centre. We are seeking this support, in part, because we are not satisfied with our relatively low intake of international undergraduate students. Our communications strategy will also aim to develop contacts beyond our borders, and we look forward to working with the TSC to maximize the efficacy of our connections.

### **Strategic Priority 4 – New Academic Initiatives and Programs**

- a) ***A&H First-Year On-Line Initiative*** (for recruiting from high schools through the WISE program and from the GTA): We will develop and deliver selected first-year courses in disciplines that are not typically part of the high school curriculum (e.g., Film Studies, Classical Studies, Latin, Philosophy). The goal is to enable “transition to university-level learning” prior to arrival as well as offer credit to be earned in advance of arrival. We believe that community-

college students may also discover their aptitude and abilities for university learning through such on-line offerings, and help facilitate distribution of students to available and appropriate places in the province's system

- b) ***Expanded offerings in the Program for Writing, Rhetoric and Professional Communication:*** Arts and Humanities will be hiring a Director of Writing by July 2012 at the latest. First, however, the Faculty will strike an advisory committee to create a plan to capitalize on the general interest in writing (in all its forms). Writing has seen a significant increase in enrolments, and the Faculty intends to expand them yet further. The Minor in Creative Writing has been very successful: we may wish to develop a Major. We will also be introducing a new Professional MA in writing in 2013. These endeavours will be supported by a new appointment joint between English and Writing. But the final shape of the Writing program, including the Master's program, will have to be determined once the Director has been chosen.
- c) ***Combined Arts and Humanities and Ivey HBA program:*** this program was recently adopted by Senate. With aggressive communication and recruitment, and support from the Ivey Business School, this program should attract significant enrolments.
- d) ***Digital Humanities:*** If our IDI proposal for the Digital Humanities is successful, we hope to be delivering a combined BA degree in an A&H discipline with a BA in Digital Humanities. It will take one or two years of developing this multi-faceted initiative before we will be able to estimate enrolments for planning purposes.
- e) ***Language Learning Centre:*** We will also be exploring ways to take advantage of the resources available in the Language Learning Centre. In particular we will be looking at the possibility of becoming a partner to various programs that require ESL training for their students, faculty, etc.

*A number of smaller-scale, course-based initiatives* are in the works. We provide just two examples here:

- f) For 2011-12, a professionalization and experiential opportunity in conference programming, funding, and publicity will become a value-added feature of the new undergraduate Sexuality Studies Major: this new experiential learning course opportunity will support the work of organizing and delivering the annual Emergence Queer Film Festival, which was inaugurated in Fall of 2008 by a Film Studies student and peers, who simultaneously organized a national (and still-growing) group, Students Against Queer Discrimination.
- g) For 2011-12, the annual "Performing French" activities in French Studies, in which students perform a play in French (with strong outreach to the local Francophone community, for example in 2009-10 at the Arts Project downtown, in 2010-11 at the McManus Theatre at the Grand) will be developed into an academic credit course, to add to the Faculty's opportunities for experiential and practicum learning and to recognize the amount of academic preparation and academically-informed work that goes into these voluntary "extracurricular" activities.

## **Strategic Priority 5: Endowed Chairs for Arts and Humanities**

The following list represents opportunities to engage donors in the academic life and development of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities by supporting areas of innovation. These proposed Chairs track our areas of greatest strength, and our existing/emergent areas of strength.

### **Endowed Chair in Visual Culture and Sustainability**

- just one area in our Faculty where research and creative practice engages the social questions of environmental sustainability

### **Endowed Chair in Philosophy of Ecology and the Environment**

- an obvious area where the question of ethics and values in the public sphere provides affiliation with the Rotman Institute and between FAH and other Faculties

### **Endowed Chair in Philosophy of Neuroscience**

- another obvious area where questions of ethics and values in the public sphere can provide affiliations between the Rotman Institute and the internationally-recognized hub of research at UWO in neuroscience, recently boosted with the CERC appointment

### **Endowed Chair in Digital Humanities**

- emerging from Hispanic Studies and English, but with application to the Faculty at large, through the introduction of a concurrent Digital Humanities and BA degree (in a specialization in any one of our programs), a Master's program in Digital Humanities, an international collaboratively delivered on-line MA in Digital Humanities in Spanish, and a Summer Digital Literacy Camp for high school students, who will gain guaranteed access to the concurrent or combined undergraduate degree option

### **Endowed Chair in Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy: French Studies**

### **Endowed Chair in Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy: Hispanic Studies**

- French and Hispanic Studies are both characterized by excellence in language teaching and both have a strong cohort of experts in Linguistics research; we also deliver a unique MA in interdisciplinary Linguistics

### **Chair in Medical Humanities and Discourse**

- proposed by English and the Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication Program, this chair would bring together Faculty expertise in Ancient Medicine in Classics, Medieval Medicine (faculty in a few of our departments), nineteenth-century cultural studies of the rise of psychiatry and gendered medical discourse, and twentieth-

and twenty-first-century representations of medical science in multiple cultural forms, as well as analysis of public policy documents, etc.

### **Endowed Chair in Sexuality Studies**

- a complement to new undergraduate major in Sexuality Studies, to graduate programs in Women's Studies and Feminist Research, to graduate programs in the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, and to faculty and graduate student researchers engaged in gender and sexuality studies as distinct from Women's Studies, to include gay, lesbian, queer, transsexual and transgendered peoples and issues; perfect complement to the very unique – and growing – collection in The Pride Library in D.B. Weldon

### **Canada Research Chairs:**

In January 2012, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities will take on the full salary of Professor Ileana Paul, a SSHRC CRC Tier II in Linguistics whose second term expires in December 2011. While her research focus is primarily in Madagascar, Professor Paul has been at the heart of the successes of the IDI in Linguistics (which also expires in 2010-11), and will continue to be core to the delivery of the unique interdisciplinary MA in Linguistics at Western (unique because it is not "applied" in the traditional sense, but interdisciplinary and highly theorized).

The Faculty, with the collaboration of the Faculty of Social Science, competed successfully for a vacant SSHRC CRC Tier II to support programming strengths in Women's Studies and Feminist Research at Western, and in particular their aspirations (and Western's) to internationalize programming and increase research and knowledge impact internationally. The Faculty hopes to have a SSHRC CRC Tier II in Global Women's Issues appointed for January or July 2012.

The Department of Philosophy is currently in the process of conducting a search to fill the Rotman CRC Tier I in Philosophy of Science.

And finally, the renewal of the SSHRC Joint CRC Tier I (currently held by Charles Weijer) in Philosophy and Schulich will be initiated in the very near future.

### **NSERC Tier II Chair in Foundations of Physics (vacancy):**

Philosophy of Science is one of Western's signature research areas, and in particular the department has a long-standing strength in the foundations of physics. Western was recently ranked in a fourway tie for second best in the world in this area, below Oxford. We propose to hire an NSERC CRC Tier II Chair in the foundations of physics at Western to maintain and build on this existing strength. Given Western's international standing we will be able to attract a truly outstanding young scholar.

The type of work done in foundations of physics by current and past members of the philosophy department has been truly interdisciplinary, combining detailed knowledge of modern physical theories with insights from philosophy of science, logic, and epistemology. Philosophers of physics typically have training in physics and mathematics as well as philosophy, and often they pursue projects that fall on both sides of the disciplinary boundaries between physics and philosophy.

Many philosophers of physics publish their research in physics and mathematics journals as well as in philosophy journals. There are already strong ties between the philosophy department and other departments in the Faculty of Science, ranging from informal reading groups to co-taught seminars and colloquium talks. Several philosophy graduate students have completed master's degrees in science departments in order to acquire the necessary skills to carry out research in this area.

In addition to training our own graduate students in philosophy of physics, a scholar in this area would also be qualified to teach graduate courses in physics. Thus it is particularly fitting to propose supporting this area of research by establishing an NSERC CRC Tier II in Foundations of Physics, in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and the departments of physics and astronomy and applied mathematics.

Creating a CRC position in philosophy of physics fits well with the vision and mission of the Rotman Institute of Philosophy: Engaging Science. One goal of the Rotman Institute is to engage scientists, and philosophers of physics are well-equipped to enter into discussions and debates with physicists on their own terms. A CRC in philosophy of physics would be particularly well-suited to strengthen ties being established between the Rotman Institute and the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics.

## **Faculty-Specific Issues: Plans for Continuation of Interdisciplinary Linguistics**

Consultation with other deans in this IDI, but also with all deans of IDIs in which A&H has been named in the current round of competition, will occur after this submission.

At present, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities will continue the practice of "buying out" interdisciplinary collaborators for co-teaching and delivery of courses in the MA in Linguistics (4.0 FCEs for 2011-12), to provide the stability necessary to continuing to recruit MA students.

However, this kind of engagement in interdisciplinary initiatives is unsustainable, and a Provost's task force or working group is necessary to tackle this problem at a university-wide level.

(See the Supplementary Materials for a Report on the Achievements of the IDI in Linguistics, prepared by Ileana Paul, CRC Tier II in Linguistics, French Studies; and a report on the MA in Linguistics, prepared by director François Poiré.)