AHSS Dean’s Activity Report  
January 1 – December 31, 2015

Scholarly Presentations and Publications


Professional and University Service

- Director, NDSU Press
- Editorial Board Member, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography
- Member, Gender Issues Committee, Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
- Member, Committee on Research Institutions, Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences
- Chair, Search Committee for the Dean of the NDSU College of Business
- Member, Committee on Undergraduate Learning Experiences
- Advisory Board Member, NDSU Women’s and Gender Studies Program
- Ally, NDSU Focus on Resources for Women's Advancement, Recruitment/Retention, and Development (FORWARD)
- Deans’ representative, President’s Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs and Member of the PCAOD’s Teaching, Research, and Learning Subcommittee
- AHSS representative, NDSU Equity and Diversity Advisory Council
- NDSU representative, Prairie Public Radio Council

Significant Administrative Activities and Accomplishments

- Initiated a comprehensive, inclusive, and faculty-driven strategic planning process in the college.
- Oversaw continued increases in the overall level of scholarly productivity in AHSS, particularly as measured by number of publications, presentations, performances, exhibitions, and research grants or contracts.
- Provided support for ongoing growth in the amount of sponsored research engaged in by AHSS faculty.
- Successfully granted tenure and/or promotion to six members of the college.
- Promoted gender equity in leadership roles in the college and supported key leadership opportunities for women, particularly by hiring Christina Weber as Associate Dean of Faculty Development, mentoring Gwen Stickney as Chair of Modern Languages, and sponsoring the involvement of eight women faculty in leadership development training.
- Implemented a variety of new recruitment activities in the college to counteract declining enrollments, particularly in the humanities.
- Supported the restructuring and development of NDSU Press as a scholarly and teaching press. Improved the visibility of NDSU and AHSS through local, statewide, regional, and national publicity and publications via the NDSU Press.
Sandstrom Activity Report

- Successfully encouraged and supported the recognition of AHSS faculty and alumni excellence, as reflected by their selection for seven prestigious national and university awards, including two Bush Fellowships, the National Ceramic Artist of the Year Award, the NDSU Faculty Service Learning Award, the Chamber of Commerce Faculty Distinguished Service Award, the Henry J. Bolley Academic Achievement Award, and a Tapestry of Diversity Award.
- Developed a new Dean’s Challenge Grant program and sustained the Dean’s Fellowship Program to enhance research activities in the college.
- Initiated a major capital campaign in Architecture/Landscape Architecture and continued to enhance development efforts in the college, as reflected in endowment gifts that exceeded 4 million dollars.
- Promoted growth and improvement in the AHSS Living and Learning Community, most notably by hiring a graduate student to coordinate activities and teach UNIV 189 courses for the community members.
- Continued implementation of the UNITE initiative, particularly through supporting the activities of the Director for Indigenous Tribal Studies and the Assistant Professor of Africana Studies.
- Supported the ongoing activities of the Red River Valley Writing Project (coordinated by Dr. Kelly Sassi of the English Department), which serves as a site for the National Writing Project.
- Kicked off efforts to renovate and redesign the AHSS website in coordination with the Office of University Relations and the Information Technology Division.

Strategic Goals and Priorities for 2016

- Finalize a new strategic plan for the college with relevant metrics
- Engage in proactive recruitment efforts to counteract national trends of declining enrollments in the arts, humanities and social sciences
- Continue to enhance faculty involvement in sponsored research and interdisciplinary inquiry
- Sustain FORWARD initiatives to enhance and support gender equity
- Enhance the diversity of the students, faculty, and staff in the college
- Increase the number of graduate students in the college
- Promote initiatives to make design, innovation, and design thinking more central components of the college

Summary

As Dean of AHSS, I continued to help the college attain key strategic goals and priorities in 2015, including (1) enhancing the faculty’s level of scholarly productivity; (2) expanding faculty involvement in sponsored research; and (3) increasing college-based development efforts and activities. The college also attained the strategic goal of improving the visibility of its academic programs, both through significant awards granted to AHSS faculty and through prominent national symposia sponsored by the Challey School of Music and the Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.
In addition to realizing the above goals, the College of AHSS sustained its commitment to supporting FORWARD initiatives, to enhancing diversity within our departments and on campus, and to making innovation and design more central components of the curriculum. The latter goal was reflected in part by the AHSS course on social innovation taught by Dr. Andrew Mara in the fall of 2015.

More generally, during 2015 I continued to serve as an active member of my discipline, as illustrated by my scholarly activities and my involvement as an Editorial Board member for the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. I also enacted important leadership roles as a university and professional citizen, including chairing the search committee for the Dean of Business, serving as a member of the Women’s and Gender Studies Advisory Board, and participating in two committees of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Scientists (CCAS).