

Academic Futures: Elevating Arts and Humanities Presentation



Kimberly DeVore, Marten Kendall, Melissa Pollich

Themes of Elevating the Arts and Humanities

Themes

Modernizing AHUM

- Changing the way AHUM is taught to make it more appealing and relevant to 21st century academia and research

Interdisciplinary Programs and Courses

- Offer students an opportunity to approach problems from different perspectives. One of the strong suits of a AHUM education and creates more adaptable students.

Community and Cross Campus Partnering

- Allows Arts and Humanities students to become engaged with the public and learn how to use their skills in real world applications

Nexus of AHUM and STEM

- AHUM and STEM are more closely related than people realize. Integrating them when possible can be beneficial to both programs.

The Significance of Arts and Humanities (AHUM)

Why It Matters

- Encourages reflection and appreciation of and empathy for humanity (Smith, 231).
- Stands for the possibilities of reinvention (Smith, 739).
- The Humanities teach us more about other people and ourselves (Leach, 49).
- Helps analyzes complex moral issues (Leach, 49).
- How are we to understand society if we do not study the Humanities? (Leach, 50).

Modernizing AHUM

Significance

- Accepts scholarly and technological challenges in relation to the digital as well as being an important place for thinking about, experimenting with, and rethinking the humanities (Svensson, 2)
- Creates new practices for creating, applying, and interpreting new digital and information technologies.

Central Problem

- Does it have to be implemented at an institutional level?
- Isolated courses/research vs large scale programs

Peer Programs

UC Berkeley Digital Humanities

- supports courses, consultation, and workshops which blend the use of technology and new ways of teaching AHUM

At CU

- Digital Humanities Graduate Certificate 2018

Interdisciplinary Programs and Courses

Significance

- “Interdisciplinary scholarly inquiry is not an end in itself. Instead, interdisciplinarity makes new forms of inquiry possible. It can offer tools of critical thinking, insight, creative problem solving, and collaboration” (Condee, 20).

Central Problem

- Difficult to justify changing current course requirements

Peer Programs

Cornell Active Learning Initiative

- Goal to substantially improve teaching & learning across disciplines and colleges
- Works in tangent with departments to implement interdisciplinary programs and changes

At CU

- Business and Leadership Minor
- NEST, “How can we use the practice of art to directly inform the practice of science, and vice versa?” (NEST website)

Community and Cross-Campus Partnering

Significance

- Community partnerships define public image of university
- Allows for real-world application of student coursework, research, or interest

Central Problem

- Outreach and public image rely on AHUM
- Difficult to establish a sense of community
- Partnerships need ongoing cultivation, support

Peer Programs

UCLA's Food Law and Policy Clinic

- student-public partnership for advocacy and policy creation.
- Engages students with local community

At CU

- Engaged Arts and Humanities Initiative
- Farrand RAP program

Nexus of AHUM and STEM

Significance

- Advance skills in communicating science to the public in a creative way
- Gives the opportunity to follow different passions/creative disciplines that combine creative skills of AHUM and problem solving skills of STEM

Central Problem

- Political and social rhetoric has emphasized the need for less humanities and more STEM education

Peer Programs

University of Arizona

- Harmony Magazine
- Art of Planetary Science exhibit

U of Minnesota “Grand Challenges”

- Funding initiatives around research

At CU

- Herbst Program for Humanities in engineering
- CU Space Minor

Recommendations: Academic Futures at CU

Modernizing AHUM

- Incentivize small scale integration at professor or department level

Interdisciplinary

- Reduce redundant classes in favor of mixed-major courses
- Minor system is an effective way to allow interdisciplinarity

Community or CC Partnerships

- Greater outreach and presence for already existing programs
- Consider grant opportunities in this theme specifically

Nexus of AHUM and STEM

- Create (or modify) existing programs to be applicable outside of only one discipline
- Consider student or public shows/talks for accessibility and research promotion outside of one discipline or department

Questions?