STEM to STEAM to STREAM: Balance and Realignment for Humanities

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Initial Issues (2010)

• Arts & Sciences described as “our Gen Ed people”
  – General Education faculty don’t need equipment

• Degree programs within department treated as consolation degrees or precursors to clinical graduate programs
  – Clinical graduate programs did not value graduates from Arts & Sciences programs

• Almost no one in College conducting research
  – No dedicated research space available to faculty
  – Most faculty not trained to conduct research
“Real College” Solution

- Faculty scholarship
- Enhance internal grant program
- Revise Plans of Study to prepare students for graduate programs
- Adopt concept of service courses
- Revise faculty evaluation process
- Promote evidence-based assessment
- Adopt Arts & Sciences first mentality
- Expand committee involvement throughout College
Substantive Change

• Changes—both small and significant—became the hallmark of our path forward.
  • Humanities & Social Sciences became more ambitious with our goals.
  • Honors Program; GEN 100; Freshmen Reading Program
  • Expansion of course offerings
  • New English courses; revision of many courses based on assessment feedback.
  • Encouraging scholarship and travel.
    • Assisting faculty new to scholarship
    • Resources, mentorship, support, promotion
  • New faculty, new energy
  • Renewed service
    • Encourage not just service, but service leadership.
  • Prior Learning Assessment
  • Film Series
  • Jefferson Thinks
  • Collaboration
Positive Improvements

• Improved collegiality and faculty morale
  • ‘Real college’ mentality
  • Faculty interact more with each other
  • More faculty interested in promotion
• Community outreach
  • Local Office on Aging Meals on Wheels
  • GTO Cadets
  • Student volunteers
  • Leadership Roanoke Valley
• Collaborations across the college
  • Sustained interaction with every department
  • Involvement in new initiatives in other departments
    • New courses
    • Graduate programs
    • Student interviews
• New courses and work on new minors
• We’ve created a larger conversation at the college.
• Excitement about the future.
• Stronger department better-equipped to deal with challenges.
Program Closure Reactions

- Increased focus on student recruiting independent of Admissions
  - Merit Scholarship
  - Articulation agreements
  - Science Festival
  - Additional community involvement
  - Eventual change in Director of Admission

- Increased focus on retention
  - College orientation courses
  - Three-day orientation for first-time, full-time students
  - Success Coaching
  - Data-driven changes across College

- Maintained focus on scholarship
Scholarship Productivity

- Watson, C. D. (accepted). When travel becomes tourism: The business of being Hemingway. Paper accepted for presentation at Paris Est Une Fête...Hemingway’s Moveable Feast, Paris, France, July, 2018
- Rao, J., Susanti, D., Childress, J. C., Mitkos, M. C., Brima J. K., Baffoe-Bonnie, A. W., Pearce, S. N., Grigurich, D., Fernandez-Cotarello, M. J., Kerkerling, T. K., & Mukhopadhyay, B. (in press). Tn2008-Driven Carbapenem-resistance in Acinetobacter baumannii isolates from a period of increased incidence of infections in a southwest Virginia hospital. Journal of Global Antimicrobials and Resistance. (Highlighted authors were undergraduate Biomedical Science students at the time the research was done.)
- Watson, C. D. (2017). Internal Travel Grant to present at Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, $1,000. 
- Hanson, G. M. (submitted). Assessment of clptm1 and gdf15 toward the amelioration of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in zebrafish. Research Acceleration Program, Carillon Clinic, $38,668.
Productivity

• Scholarship (Fall 2017 only)
  – 10 presentations
  – 12 manuscripts submitted
  – 7 grant proposals submitted
  – 4 faculty with current funding

• Science Festival sponsored by Wells Fargo

• Increased enrollment
  – Biomedical Sciences enrollment doubling last two years
  – Honors Program established and growing
  – Elective courses developed and growing
  – High student satisfaction ratings and comments
Questions?