

A Proposal for the creation of the

Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research

A report commissioned by the Provost of the University of Wyoming

Submitted by: Paul Flesher, Susanna Goodin, Eric Sandeen
Steering Committee Leaders,

On behalf of the

UW Humanities Initiative Steering Committee

Date: 15 May 2013

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*Pronounced “wire.”

Introduction

In November 2012, Vice President of Special Projects Carol Frost and Provost Myron Allen convened a steering committee to create a humanities center at UW. The committee was chaired by Paul Flesher, Susanna Goodin, and Eric Sandeen. Guided by facilitator Todd Breyfogle of the Aspen-Wye Seminars, a committee with representation from across the colleges developed the following report. The sixteen-member steering committee included humanists, social scientists, and scientists. In the course of its work, the committee drew in additional colleagues, perhaps most notably from the College of Business and the various UW libraries. In addition to three working weekends throughout AY 2012-13, there were discussions with five focus groups ranging from deans to pre-tenure faculty, consultations with stake holders ranging from the Berry Center to the libraries and Art Museum, visits with humanities centers at sister flagship institutions, and attendance at the conference of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes.

The report that follows specifies the leadership role for humanities at a research university such as UW and details how that role may best be achieved, building from dedicated resources. It formulates a vision and a mission statement. It details what will count as scholarly outcomes while explaining what will be needed to achieve those outcomes. The benefits of humanistic research, for faculty at all levels (including academic professionals), for graduate and undergraduate students, for the University of Wyoming itself, and for the public, both local and global, is clearly expressed. Committee members aimed to formulate a plan for a humanities research institute that would make UW a center for boundary-breaking thinking about academic research in a rich human context. We considered what would be the strategies, structures and resources necessary to fulfill that goal.

The result is a comprehensive proposal for a humanities research institute with the following components:

- 1) Programs to enhance the intellectual atmosphere in which humanities research, teaching, and discussion are conducted.
- 2) Programs to build connections and collaboration among humanities researchers.
- 3) Programs to enhance interdisciplinary collaborative research with disciplines in the sciences, social sciences and arts.
- 4) Programs to strengthen connections between UW and local, regional, and national academic and non-academic humanities institutions.
- 5) Support for multi-year, themed research projects.
- 6) Support for collaborative research projects.
- 7) Support for individual research projects.
- 8) Internal fellows (faculty at any level, graduate and undergraduate students).
- 9) External fellows (scholars visiting from other institutions).
- 10) A dedicated space for humanities fellows, programs, and discussion.
- 11) Administrative and support staff, including advisory boards, to effect programming, assessment, and the promotion of the humanities.

1.0 Vision: The Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research

Every generation inherits the knowledge and values of its forebears, but changes and redirects them under pressure from challenges its predecessors could not have imagined. Each choice we make, whether individually or as a society, alters us in ways that we ourselves are often not aware. It is the work of humanities scholars to see what those changes are, how they came to be made in the direction they were made and what that tells us about whom we are today.

People have always engaged in analysis and critique of the full range of activities that make up their lives. In the Western world, this long open-ended line of inquiry began with little, if any, distinction among theology, philosophy, and science. Early universities were the catalysts for transforming this unitary field of study into the many disciplines familiar to us in universities across the world today.

Throughout these changes, the humanities have remained at the core of universities' efforts to study and comprehend human endeavors. It is the universities that have provided the home for humanities research. Some study the work of past scholars to better understand the past for its own sake as well as to seek out the possibilities of new insights, while others embrace the most cutting-edge scholarship out there, educating ourselves and others on how to engage with the new and unfamiliar in the immediacy of an increasingly diverse world.

Contemporary humanities scholar Marjorie Garber argues that the promise of the humanities lies in sustaining and supporting the fertile conversations across the disciplines. While universities have traditionally fostered and encouraged specialized areas of research, now is the time for the humanities to pull the individual pieces back together and construct a richer, more informed conception of what it means to be human and what it is to live in a humane and civil society.

We understand humanities research to be a collaborative, cross-disciplinary venture, in which scholars apply finely honed perspectives on the past and present, producing knowledge invaluable in making wise decisions regarding the future. To produce scholarship at this level, the UW humanities community needs to be able to conduct research in conditions equivalent to those of colleagues in our other major fields at UW and that mirror centers of excellence in humanities scholarship elsewhere. The humanities institute envisaged for UW will focus faculty energy campus-wide around problems facing us on both global and local fronts. The work of the Institute will model cultural understanding, promote critical thinking skills regarding the full range of beliefs held, and create a sense of community in which the ideas and knowledge of all are part of the conversations that must be had.

The humanities at UW will make public the necessary churning of competing forms of knowledge, the foment of ideas, the ongoing, systematic examination of constellations of values, and the constant dialog between tradition and innovation that animate the modern university. Through its reflexivity and its constant exploration of the human condition, Louis Menand points out, the humanities pursue "an ongoing inquiry into the limits of inquiry. And it is not just asking questions about knowledge; it is creating knowledge by asking the questions. Skepticism about the forms of knowledge is itself a form of

knowledge.” The humanities produce new knowledge about how we think and make us self-conscious of our position in an ever-expanding world community. Because the humanities foster and inform intellectual debate, civil discourse, and thoughtful communication, our efforts are not just complementary to, but crucial for, the advancement of the University of Wyoming as a university with a worldwide status and all the scholarly and ethical consequences that such leadership entails.

2.0 Mission Statement

In accordance with the mandate that this area crucial to human endeavor be a UW Area of Distinction, the mission for the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research (WIHR) is to:

- 1) Promote, support, and showcase humanities scholarship across the University.
- 2) Foster collaborative and interdisciplinary research among faculty and APLs at the University and scholars outside the University at the local, national, and international level.
- 3) Engage in critical reflection on the nature of the humanities themselves and on their role in a civil democracy.
- 4) Communicate the results of such research and reflection to the greater community, local and statewide.

WIHR recognizes the following principles as guiding its activities in the support, development, and expansion of humanities research here at the University of Wyoming.

- **Climate:** Humanities research requires conditions that nurture it, as well as efforts to disseminate its results. We must create a climate that supports the conception of original ideas, the research and study of those ideas, and the writing, publishing and sharing of results among colleagues and also with a broad, general audience.
- **Innovation:** Humanities research is ongoing and often requires the opportunity to master new areas of study, as well as the methods, theories, and approaches in related (and even seemingly unrelated) disciplines.
- **Community:** Humanities research requires support, ranging from library holdings to travel opportunities, digital laboratories, funding, research time, and the challenge and stimulation of a strong community of colleagues within a larger academic environment that acknowledges and values differing approaches to seeking knowledge and understanding.
- **Teaching:** Humanities research provides the basis for exciting teaching on a solid, cutting-edge basis within the knowledge of a discipline or within the experimental interstices of the forefront of knowledge acquisition, whether in a single discipline or across disciplinary boundaries.
- **Opportunity:** Humanities research encourages participation from and brings opportunity to faculty, including APLs, graduate students, and undergraduates.

3.0 Goals and Activities

The aim of the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research is to foster the kinds of discussions and scholarly collaborations for which the day-to-day work of the academic

calendar provides neither time nor space. Accordingly, WIHR will 1) foster collaborative research, 2) assist with the formation of individual research projects at all stages of development, 3) assist in the execution of digital humanities activities, and 4) provide physical and intellectual space for the presentation of research. Responding to its location in a public, land-grant university, WIHR will address the relationship between the humanities and its publics beyond scholarly communities: local, state, national, and global communities. WIHR will become a center of humanities research endeavors through the following programs, activities, and support services.

3.1 Humanities Institute Research Initiatives

The Institute will feature three types of research programs with grant funding.

3.1.1 Institute-generated Research Themes.

The Institute will sponsor two-year research themes around which a series of activities will take place. These themes will provide an intellectual meeting place for interaction from a variety of perspectives. The theme will be elaborated by an Institute committee; it could spring from a phrase (“social justice” for example) or a single word (“Emergence” is the foundation for the elaborate program of activities for 2013-14 at the University of Durham, UK). Here at UW, themes could range from locally relevant interests such as “water” or “modern society in its wild context,” to more typical humanities topics like “the story of the past” or “limits of inquiry.” These themes will usually be designed to allow and even encourage interdisciplinary work across humanities disciplines as well as into the sciences, social sciences, and the arts.

Theme activities will include the appointment of visiting and local fellows to pursue research in this area and interact with other scholars about it. This interaction will range from public presentations to ongoing research seminars for faculty, APLs and research students. In addition, each presentation of a two-year theme will act as the Request for Proposals for a range of activities, forms of collaboration, and individual projects.

- Faculty research groups can apply for support for a two-year project that could include external and internal Fellows, graduate assistants, travel to collections or sources of primary material, symposia, conferences, or publication subventions.
- Groups of faculty can apply for funding for seminars, short term (less than one year) collaborative projects, or workshops.
- Individual scholars may apply for support for a project relating to the theme.

3.1.2 Faculty-generated Collaborative Research.

These projects, usually lasting one year or less, will allow teams of scholars to take the step from conversations to conferences, for example, or enable a seminar with an internationally-known scholar at a crucial point of a collaborative project.

3.1.3 Faculty-generated Individual Research.

UW faculty and professional staff members may apply for research support for humanities projects not related to the two-year theme.

3.2 Sustaining Humanities Communities at the University and Beyond

3.2.1 Connections and community among scholars

The traditional focus on individual research among humanities scholars means that it is difficult to develop research-level ties among humanities scholars. Faculty members meet to discuss teaching, engage in service activities, and interact with colleagues day-to-day in their home departments and programs, but there is little research exchange during the course of the busy academic year. The WIHR aims to change that in the following ways.

- Use the Guthrie House to build community.
- Work to establish new connections among academic programs.
- Work to encourage community by coordinating campus humanities events.
- Work to create formal and informal connections and activities among UW scholars in the humanities and related fields.
- Work to extend the humanities community by creating connections between UW and individual scholars and humanities centers elsewhere.
- Serve as an incubator for new research themes, collaborative projects, and educational opportunities.
- Work to build a community of inquiry and common purpose that could support a Ph.D. in the humanities—the most advanced form of student research.

3.2.2 Activities for which WIHR is the primary sponsor

Intellectual connection often begins at moments of intellectual stimulation, whether at the cutting edge or in new areas. WIHR will facilitate this with sponsored activities such as:

- Lectures by widely known humanities scholars (one or two per year)
- Reading seminars in areas of primary interest to humanities faculty
- Workshops involving practitioners or performers to create a dialogue between humanistic study and artistic, traditional, or professional practice.
- Presentations of work in progress by UW faculty and staff
- Informal gatherings: insights that can drive humanities research are often the result of unplanned intellectual encounters; the creation of opportunities to increase the possibility of those encounters is essential, thus there will be breakfast- or lunch-time meetings, salons, flash events, or other occasions that encourage new forms of interaction among like-minded people.
- Film series

3.2.3 Activities co-sponsored with other UW units

In addition, WIHR will work with other campus units, as appropriate, in their humanities activities. These may include:

- Departmental lectures, whether official, such as History's Cone Lecture or English's L.L. Smith Lecture, or occasional lectures sponsored by departments and programs such as American Studies, Religious Studies, and Philosophy
- Lectures organized by Phi Beta Kappa, or the Presidential Speakers and the Faculty Senate Speakers.
- Conferences and symposia, such as the English Department's Spring 2014 research seminar on literature and the environment, or the Goode Symposium, co-sponsored by the departments of Philosophy, History, Languages, and English.
- Fellows for using UW resources, such as the American Heritage Center fellowships.

3.2.4 Humanities and its publics

Outreach activities such as presentations and seminars, especially research-oriented ones, will take place as part of WIHR core activities, but the Institute will support additional events and other modes of outreach to the campus, colleagues elsewhere, and the general public.

- Public presentations, brown bag discussions and research presentations. These may be co-sponsored with humanities departments and other units on campus.
- Programs that can include faculty at the state's community colleges.
- Web presence to announce activities and serve as forum for campus activities. The WIHR will align with the digital initiative at the University Libraries to enhance access to resources and publication of both research in progress and final results through online journal development and other digital means.
- Prizes in the humanities for activities at UW and across the state. These could be awarded at an annual banquet.
- Teaching activities based on humanities research on the model of the Summer Classics Institute sponsored by the Wyoming Humanities Council or, prospectively, sponsored by the Summer Seminars and Teaching Institutes of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

3.3 Ongoing Support for Humanities Research

Continuing resources and events will be needed to sustain humanities research.

- Grant writing or research development workshops
- A humanities-specific clearing house of grant opportunities, distributed to UW subscribers monthly.
- An Institute-based digital humanities lab with a dedicated time from an IT staff person to help faculty discover, explore, and take advantage of the new opportunities of this research medium, such as data-mining projects or analysis of algorithmic methodologies from a humanities perspective.

- Collaboration with the UW Libraries to create and maintain a Humanities Research Commons.
- Consistent and ongoing cooperation with units such as the libraries, the Art Museum, and the AHC in humanities related initiatives.

4.0 Structure—Administrative and Spatial

The administration of the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research will sustain a collegial atmosphere while providing the structure necessary for this university-wide effort. WIHR will report to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. The director will participate in the Provost’s council of Deans and Directors. The space available to the institute will operate to encourage research and communication goals, including community building.

4.1 Administration

Administrative positions have specific terms; for the period of their terms these faculty members are reassigned to the Humanities Institute for a percentage of their time and their departments and programs receive compensation for their absence.

4.1.1 Faculty administrators

- **Director:**
Administrative activities including pursuing funding, facilitating grants, budget development. The director represents the humanities in internal administrative discussions and structures and is the primary contact person between the WIHR, similar organizations at other universities, and the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes. After the initial, transitional year, the director’s position will be a three-year term (renewable) filled according to UW’s standard hiring practices and with the hiring committee drawn from the Internal Advisory Board and faculty active in the institute.
- **Faculty Catalysts:**
Solicit ideas from faculty and introduce projects, questions, and even provocations and challenges to the humanities community; help interdisciplinary clusters of humanities faculty develop ideas, secure funding, and convene; manage speakers’ series, host salons and lunches, shape public events. These colleagues work closely with the WIHR director to shape the direction of WIHR. Faculty Catalysts are selected by the Internal Advisory Board and appointed by the Director. Their three-year terms will be staggered.

4.1.2 Governing Bodies

- **Internal Advisory Board:**
Selected by the Director and the Faculty Catalysts and appointed by the Vice-President for Research and Economic Development, the Internal Board represents the voice of the UW humanities faculty. The Internal Board assists the Director and coordinators with the composition of standing committees (such as for the selection of grants and the appointment of Fellows) and ad hoc committees (related to specific Institute projects, for example) and

consults with the Director and coordinators in the formulation of multi-year themes. The Chair of the Internal Board, elected by the members of the Board, represents the board in administrative discussions with the Director.

- External Advisory Board:
Consisting of emeritus UW faculty, colleagues from other institutes (including the Wyoming Humanities Council), and engaged alumni, the External Board meets annually. Board members are selected by the Director, the Faculty Catalysts, and the chair of the Internal Board, in consultation with the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and the University of Wyoming Foundation.

4.1.3 Professional staff

- Office Assistant
- Research coordinator: During the first few years the director will work with existing staff in the Office of Research to produce lists of grant opportunities, private foundation contacts, and grant writing seminars appropriate to the humanities. The goal will be to develop a staff position dedicated to research development and support.
- Outreach and publicity Coordinator.
- Dedicated IT staff member to help with digital humanities projects.

4.2 Institute Fellows

- Internal UW Faculty Fellows would be awarded some of the following support:
 - Course release for one or more semesters to work with WIHR on a Theme.
 - Funding for research needs or travel, whether related to individual research, theme research, or collaborative faculty research.
 - Office space in the WIHR House as individuals or assigned meeting space with members of a research group.
 - Support of pre-tenure research semesters, with funding provided by WIHR to home departments or programs for course release. Through the WIHR such semesters could be coordinated with other research efforts and pre-tenure faculty members could be housed in the WIHR building for the duration of their research semesters.
- External Faculty Fellows: Visiting fellows supported by WIHR with office space provided at the WIHR House.
 - Faculty from universities and institutes, national and international, who are partially or fully funded by the WIHR for a specified time for a specified project, typically, but not necessarily, associated with the WIHR's multi-year theme.
 - Faculty who wish to be associated with WIHR for their research leaves and need an office, access to research facilities (library or AHC, for example), and a venue for working out research ideas in seminar format.
 - Faculty solicited and funded by WIHR to participate for one or more semesters.

- Faculty members from other institutions participating in exchanges with UW colleagues.
- Graduate Student Fellows:
 - Selected graduate students would receive graduate credit for seminars taken via WIHR.
 - Graduate students would serve as research assistants or interns for Faculty Fellows.
 - Graduate students would pursue graduate level research mentored by the Faculty Fellows.
 - Graduate Student Fellows could be associated with the WIHR to work on dissertation projects and participate in the seminars and other events of the Institute.
 - Graduate Student Fellows would qualify for WIHRS travel support.
 - Graduate Student Fellows would be a core constituency for an eventual Ph.D. in the Humanities.
- Undergraduate Student Fellows:
 - Selected undergraduates would receive credit toward their major for participating in WIHR activities.
 - Students could pursue research mentored by the Faculty Fellows.
 - WIHR could support some travel for conference participation.

4.3 Space

The location initially assigned to the Humanities Institute is the Guthrie House. Currently, humanities disciplines are distributed in Hoyt, Ross, and Coe; interdisciplinary programs related to humanities reside in the Cooper Mansion, the Cheney Center and the A&S building; and programs with humanities intersections are all over campus and in every college. The Guthrie House will provide a hub for campus-wide humanities. Other humanities institutes, in all stages of development and levels of support, advise that the availability of a space dedicated to the humanities is the indispensable starting point. The spatial requirements noted below conform to the essential uses identified by other institutes.

- The WIHR Building (Guthrie House) will be a dynamic and accessible space that encourages informal contact among researchers. It will provide dedicated space that invites faculty to meet outside departmental confines. The gravitational pull of the space will keep established scholars and up-and-coming intellectuals in productive proximity.
- The building will show the humanities at work; it will thus serve as a recruitment tool and as an incentive to continue work at UW. It will be a place of insightful analysis as well as lively debate and discussion, fostering intellectual friction and collective force.
- The Guthrie House will provide space for faculty research seminars and other small meetings.
- The facility will have areas of formal space for presentations and meetings and informal space for brainstorming and intellectual exchange. It will house administrative spaces for the director and staff. There will be office space for the fellows, designed to facilitate interaction and consultation as well as private work. The digital humanities lab and its tech support will be housed in the WIHR building. (See Guthrie House appendix.)

5.0 Funding

Funding must be adequate to support institute and faculty ventures, to give the institute heft within the university, and to build its status to sustain partnerships elsewhere.

WIHR will explore all available internal and external funding sources:

- UW budget: Basic operations of the WIHR (director + administrative staff) should be supported through UW sources. This is necessary for stability and prudent planning.
- UW Office of Research: We will begin with a pilot grant program offering support to faculty research groups and individual faculty projects.
- Foundation support: WIHR must become a funding priority for UW. We will work with the UW Foundation to solicit gifts from UW alumni and friends, and corporations known for balancing their giving across sciences, arts and humanities.
- External grant support: Our immediate targets include foundations and state agencies. We also have also identified aspirational grants that we will apply for in two or three years. Chief among this is a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

6.0 Assessment

The Humanities Institute aims to increase research activity, raise its visibility at UW, and achieve the dissemination of results through presentations, publications, and the like. It aims to increase faculty collaborations at UW in the humanities, across campus, and with colleagues in the state and in the wider academic world. It will engage graduate fellows and undergraduates in humanities research and dissemination at a high level.

To measure how well it is accomplishing these goals, the institute will engage in ongoing and regular collection of the data outlined in the table below. It evaluate the attainment of

these goals on an annual or biennial basis and use that evaluation to set priorities for the institute.

Methods. The methods of assessment must be appropriate to the character of the object being assessed. Correspondingly, the following assessment plan strives to balance quantitative and qualitative measures with the rigor appropriate to humanistic disciplines. This rigor takes account of the following principles:¹

- Humanities research has many different impacts;
- Humanities research impact is often difficult to measure and is difficult to predict or assess in advance;
- Humanities research impact tends to be cumulative, often over many years;
- The contribution to public knowledge is a significant, non-academic impact of humanities research;
- Research impact is often the result of unplanned intellectual encounters; the creation of intentional opportunities to increase the possibility of those encounters is itself an important impact;
- Quantitative measurements should be assessed against thoughtful targets and not simple increase.

Sources. Beyond basic quantitative measurements, qualitative assessments will be sought from:

- Participants at Humanities Institute events: undergraduates, graduates, faculty (by discipline) including APLs, community, and other participants;
- Internal and external fellows of the Humanities Institute;
- Visitors to the Humanities Institute;
- Humanities Institute Faculty Catalysts;
- External review by academics and professionals from outside the University;
- Stories or “case studies” of the impact of the Humanities Institute for research, collaboration, and teaching.

Indicators. In addition to basic quantitative measurements, indicators of success include:

- A dynamic culture of intellectual curiosity, excellence, and conversation;
- Publications and other events which contribute to progress in the humanistic disciplines;
- Gatherings of a wide variety of disciplines to engage central questions about the human condition.

Instruments. The following table sketches the kind of quantitative and qualitative measurements which might be used. Each would require collection mechanisms, dedicated staff time, and the development of survey and other instruments as appropriate.

¹ See R. Levitt, et al, *Assessing the impact of arts and humanities research at the University of Cambridge*, RandEurope, 2010, executive summary, pp. xiii-xiv. www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR816.html. Accessed May 1, 2013.

Assessment Areas and Approaches

Activity	Quantitative	Qualitative	Source
Internal/External Fellows	Number of applications Number of fellows	Contributions to programs below	Administrative collection
Theme Research	Number of applications Number of events Number of conference presentations Number and publications Number and type of disciplines represented Internal and external media reports (including social media)	Quality of applications Quality of events Standing of conference Status of publication Currency of theme to public knowledge Quality of media source Modification of teaching Change in research direction	Review committees Advisory committees Attendance surveys Fellows, Faculty Catalysts, guests Administrative collection Stories/Case Studies Self-reporting
Collaborative Research	Number of applications Number of events Number of conference presentations Number and publications represented Type of collaboration: Faculty/undergraduate Faculty/graduate Within fields Across fields With non-humanistic fields	Quality of applications Quality of events Standing of conference Status of publication Currency of theme to public knowledge Quality of media source Modification of teaching Change in research direction	Review committees Advisory committees Attendance surveys Fellows, Faculty Catalysts, guests Administrative collection Stories/Case Studies Self-reporting (especially for projects of long-gestation)
Individual Research	Number of applications Attendance at HI presentation Number of conference presentations Number and publications	Quality of applications Standing of conference Status of publication Currency of theme to public knowledge Quality of media source Modification of teaching Change in research direction	Review committees Advisory committees Fellows, Faculty Catalysts, guests Administrative collection Stories/Case Studies Self-reporting (especially for projects of long-gestation)
Connections/Synergy	Attendance at events Visitors from other universities Number of co-sponsored/advertised programs Website hits Matches made by grant advisor Internal and external media reports (including social media)	Quality of conversation Liveliness of discussion Modification of teaching Change in research direction	Review committees Advisory committees Attendance surveys Fellows, Faculty Catalysts, guests Administrative collection Stories/Case Studies Self-reporting (especially for projects of long-gestation)
Outreach	Attendance at events Visitors from community Number of co-sponsored/advertised programs Website hits Internal and external media reports (including social media)	Quality of conversation Liveliness of discussion Modification of other institutions' programming or direction	Review committees Advisory committees Attendance surveys Fellows, Faculty Catalysts, guests Administrative collection Stories/Case Studies Self-reporting (especially for projects of long-gestation)
Support	Number of workshops/participants Number of grant applications Number and amount of grant awards	Quality of applications and projects Quality of granting bodies	Administrative collection Self-reporting (especially for projects of long-gestation)
Administration	Appropriate staffing and reporting lines Active advisory boards Appropriate funding Appropriate support for assessment—documentation and evaluation	, Faculty Catalysts Administration a means to an end and not an end in itself Thoughtful assessment observation	Periodic administrative review from Old Main External review (including external fellows)
Atmosphere	Constant activity at Guthrie House Number of smiles Number of good conversations	Guthrie House has a "buzz" Occupied most waking hours Space conducive to research, conversation, collaboration	Review committees Advisory committees Attendance surveys Fellows, faculty catalysts, guests Administrative collection Stories/Case Studies

Appendix A: Implementation

The establishment of WIHR and its activities and programs will take place over six years, although it is hoped that the key activities and structure will be set in place during the first two years. Our projection of the year-by-year steps of this roll-out follows.

Year 1: 2013-14

Programs	WIHR research events	A) Announcement and implementation of a one-year faculty research project, proposals to respond to a theme and application process announced by WIHR. B) Grant writing and research development workshops for individuals and groups of WIHR members. Workshops in the digital humanities. C) Competition for small research grants (2013-14 only) to draw attention to WIHR and faculty group idea.
	WIHR public events	A) 1 or 2 prominent humanities lectures, books in the humanities discussions, gatherings (breakfast, lunch), salons, flash events, other informal occasions to encourage new forms of interaction among like-minded people, some of these to involve practitioners or performers (those who DO what is being studied). B) Presentations by those WIHR Fellows appointed for any part of the academic year (external, pre-tenure internal, grant recipients).
	Co-sponsored events	American Heritage Center lectures, Library lectures, English Department conferences (environment + MA conference in the Spring), Goode symposium, Cone lecture (History), Phi Beta Kappa lecture, American Studies lecturers, Presidential speakers series participant
Planning	WIHR themes	Develop first 2-year theme. CFP December 2013 with April 2014 announcement of faculty group winners.
	Faculty reward structures	Establish levels of department reimbursement for buy-out of faculty time; discuss with departments/deans how participation in WIHR community will count in tenure and promotion processes.
	Logistics	Determining best times for humanities events, formal and informal. Creating geography of humanities sites in this pre-Guthrie House stage. Construction of website (to be edited weekly) with basic architecture to support expanding role of the humanities in coming months and years.
	Guthrie House	Convene committee to devise building program, using

		blueprints as a guideline. Work with Facilities Planning to engage appropriate professional guidance in how to modify space to suit the program. Purchase furniture, necessary equipment.
	Leadership	Develop and advertise position of WIHR director. Competition restricted to UW personnel. Multi-year term to begin August 2014.
	WIHR budget	Work with Old Main to establish baseline of UW support for administration, programming, continuing physical needs as WIHR expands.
	Foundations/donors	Establish relationship with UW Foundation. Take a census of humanities graduates and faculty emeriti. Identify potential private foundation funding sources, particularly for faculty groups.
	Grant goals	Establish contact with National Endowment for the Humanities (Challenge Grant) and work closely with state-based organizations (Humanities Council, Arts Council, Cultural Trust Fund).
Staff		Transitional year administrative support: Director, access to office assistance, 2-3 Faculty Catalysts, dedicated time from Research Office staff to develop humanities-specific materials and mailings, programming assistant to handle logistics/publicity (GA), webmaster (GA or contract), IT assistance for digital humanities, work study.
Structure	Director	Represents WIHR to administration. Attends Deans/Directors meetings. Reports to VP Research/Development.
	Faculty Catalysts	Represent WIHR to the humanities faculty: generate ideas, collect suggestions, promote, provoke. 3 year term.
	Administrative Council	Director (Chair), Faculty Catalysts, Chair of Internal Board—make appointments to Internal, External Boards.
	Internal Board	6-8 UW faculty members. Appoint standing and ad hoc committees. Liaison with departments and programs. 3 year staggered, renewable terms.
	External Board	Appoint 4-6 members in expandable board: emeriti, alumni, potential donors, representatives from other institutes. 3 year, staggered, renewable terms.

Year 2: 2014-2015

Programs	Special events for opening of Guthrie House as home of WIHR	Lectures, seminars, opening ceremony.
	Public events	Humanities awards, banquet; Guthrie open house, external board meeting
	Humanities Institute Initiatives	Begin activities related to theme for 2014-16.
	Fellowships	Implement first round of faculty research groups responding to theme. Offer range of collaborative and individual funding opportunities. Develop and implement internal/external Fellowship program.
	Ongoing Humanities Activities	Continue on-campus activities (reading groups, lectures, etc.). Sponsor lectures for the public, both in Laramie and around the state
Planning	External funding	Begin development of NEH Challenge grant application, including discussion of requirement for matching funds
	Research assistance	Development of rationale for staff position
	Discussions with stakeholders	Work with Library on Research Commons, Art Museum on combination performance/seminar space, American Heritage Center on collaborative research programs with dedicated space.
	Discuss implementation of Summer program	Institutes, including NEH-sponsored, field-oriented workshops, Fellows program, programs to include Wyoming community college instructors.
	Theme for 2016-2018	First articulation in paragraph form.
	Conference on construction of term “public humanities” in Wyoming	Planning participants: Wyoming Humanities Council, Cultural Trust Fund, Community College instructors, representative from cultural institutions (Buffalo Bill Historical Center, et al.)
Administration	Director Faculty Catalysts Project coordinator	Begin 3-year term. Appoint additional member(s) as needed and stagger terms. Move from GA to staff position
Assessment	Effectiveness of ongoing activities	Attendance, evidence of humanities community, impact on research
	Effectiveness of grant	Feedback from those using this service;

	writing/research development materials and assistance	increase in number of externally-funded projects.
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Year 3: 2015-2016

Programs	Theme for 2016-2018	Expand theme for 2016-2018 from paragraph to full RFP. Announce the theme in January 2016, with first round of proposals (including long-term faculty research groups) due in April 2016
	Ongoing Humanities Activity	More activities move to Guthrie House
	Partnerships with stakeholders	Co-sponsored use of Library Research Commons, symposium in Art Museum space, research presentations and workshops coordinated with Fellowships at the American Heritage Center.
	Public Humanities conference	Bring together Wyoming Humanities Council, Cultural Trust Fund, Community College instructors, representative from cultural institutions (Buffalo Bill Historical Center, et al.) to discuss construction of term “public humanities” in Wyoming (its meaning, significance, and application)
Planning	NEH Challenge Grant	Establish writing committee (August 2015). Work with university on matching requirements; articulate proposal with stakeholders, possible Wyoming participants beyond UW. Submit grant May 2016.
	Outreach Specialist	Develop criteria (and funding source) for staff member who would develop exhibits, devise public programs in conjunction with other institutions in the state, and coordinate development of digital research symposia
Administration	Director	Evaluation during Spring semester. Develop requirements (funding, job description) for internal/external search during 2016-17
Assessment	As per assessment grid	Assessment conducted with particular attention to NEH Challenge grant criteria and developing UW narrative

Year 4 (2016-17) will signal an important year in the life of the Institute. During that year, the results of the NEH Challenge grant application will become known. Much of what the Institute will do relies on this decision. In either case, the first three years of WIHR activities should be reviewed during the fourth year, with an eye to reforming

ongoing activities and reconfiguring larger Humanities Institute initiatives. During this year WIHR should discuss elaborating the structure of the Institute through the establishment of endowed chairs and/or a Ph.D. program in the Humanities or related field(s). With three years of experience in collaborative research to draw upon, efforts should be made to direct groups of faculty to other grant possibilities, such as the National Endowment's Summer Institute Program or Digital Initiatives. Both internal and external Fellowship programs should be examined in terms of their effect on the research of UW faculty members and their visibility nationally and internationally. By that time, the nature of publication will be so heavily influenced by digital forms – both as a national trend as a matter of practice at UW – that the Institute should consider convening a conference on this subject, with two possible results: a program of publication for research sponsored by the Institute and a set of criteria that would make clearer the acknowledgments for work in these media on the part of pre-tenure faculty members and academic professionals. Funding streams for the Institute should be reexamined and augmented.

So much depends on this review that one can only point to goals that might be achieved at the end of the six year planning period in 2020:

- A stable, vibrant community of scholarship, centering in the Guthrie House, which is busy from morning until evening with events both formal and informal.
- Exciting spaces – both real and virtual – that encourage experimentation, conversation, and even confrontation about issues, themes, and even
- Recognition of the excellence of humanities scholarship and the stimulating qualities of humanities programming by the university, as reflected in strong, enduring support.
- Stimulating exchange between UW research communities and colleagues in the U.S.A. and beyond.
- A clear articulation, through projects, programs, and publications, of what the humanities means to the life of the University of Wyoming and the state that supports it.
- Strong support from donors who are committed to the work of the humanities.

Appendix B: The Guthrie House

This historic building is suffused with the goodwill of its donors, and long-time friends of UW, the Guthrie family. We are honored that this building will house the Humanities Institute. The following constitutes an initial formulation of how the space would be used.

Public areas:

These serve to welcome participants and guests, to host varied events—even multiple events simultaneously—and to provide an area for dynamic intellectual community.

The following presumes the removal of temporary office partitions, and the renovation of the building for purpose and code.

The first-floor will be maintained largely as a public area.

The larger formal space (east end of building) will host lectures, symposia, and classes.

Furnishing: media for presentation, flexible furnishing to support lectures and seminars.

Less-formal and more flexible spaces (in the core and on the west end) will host lunches, readings, spontaneous gatherings, and casual visitors.

Furnishing: media for viewing, welcoming and mobile furnishing to encourage lingering and conversation, including couches and blackboards or white-walls for speculation and messaging.

Catering spaces (kitchen) to facilitate catering services, fellow and visitor lunches, ongoing coffee service.

Furnishing: As appropriate.

Quiet areas:

These serve administrative and individual research functions.

Offices: These are on the first floor (administrative and support offices, immediately on the left) and the upper level (offices for faculty and guest fellows). We imagine eventually remodeling the second floor's cubical space for offices as the institute grows.

Furnishings: appropriate office support, including computing and connectivity.

Resource Area: This will be in an appropriately remodeled basement.

Resource library, with materials on methodologies, etc.

Furnishing: shelves, library chairs, large library table with chairs

Digital media lab, with appropriate varied hardware and software, presided over by tech support (which may be based in the lab).

Furnishing: small computer lab, with state of the art computing, software, and networking appropriate to study in the humanities. A server under IT maintenance and security with server-side scripting, and collaborative space open to UW faculty under WIHR control.

Student space:

In the time-honored tradition of graduate study, student researchers will populate and enliven the building's more mysterious spaces—basement and attics.

Furnishings: quirky spaces nonetheless require attractive desks, chairs, etc.

Facade: The Guthrie House is already visually attractive. Minor landscaping and external messaging capacity will both advertise the Humanities Institute and invite interaction from colleagues, UW students, and members of the public.

Furnishings: outside seating, landscaping matching UW's Vedauwoo theme, external notice board.

Back garden: While most of this area will be inaccessible during the winter, this space will be tended in order to take full advantage of the beauty of the Laramie summers.

Concerns: The stewardship of the house has been good, but the basement has recurring issues. Pipes in this old house burst with some regularity and this must be ameliorated.

The building as a whole must be thoroughly accessible for wireless communication.

Building Readiness:

Three levels are suggested, depending on funding

- With modest funding: New carpet/floor treatments, paint, furniture for offices and communal spaces, wheeled furniture for communal spaces, some lamps, additional power outlets, storage for Media/presentation equipment. Place reception desk in foyer. Use upstairs for director and fellows offices. Window shades to allow adjustable light. Minor upgrades to kitchen: garbage disposal and dishwasher, dedicated circuits to allow coffee pot and microwave, refrigerator. Minor upgrades to bathrooms including low-flow, dual-flush toilets, good ventilation and sinks. Leave basement alone until additional support.
- With medium funding: All of the modest items. Renovate basement to contain the humanities lab, wired and fully equipped, and with comfortable and flexible furniture. Install writing surface on every available wall, whiteboard retractable room divider. Subdivide upstairs offices to create more workspaces for fellows or visiting folks. Renovation, kitchen, install coffee station.
- With maximum funding: Significant renovation and addition of existing structure on all three floors or completely new construction. Eco-landscaping and creation of outdoor work/performance space. Installation of a bar.

The Guthrie House will beckon scholars to drop in while at the same time providing an environment of learnedness and debate. House and Institute together will be dynamic and adaptable—a place to see the Humanities in action.

Appendix C. Steering Committee Composition

Paul V.M. Flesher, co-chair, Professor of Religious Studies, Chair of Religious Studies Dept

Susanna Goodin, co-chair, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Chair of Philosophy Dept

Eric J. Sandeen, co-chair, Professor of American Studies, Director of American Studies Program

Harold Bergman, J.E. Warren Professor of Energy and Environment, Chair of Zoology and Physiology

Michael C. Brose, Associate Professor of History, Chair of History Department

R. McGregor Cawley, Professor of Political Science

Antoinette DeNapoli, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies

Duncan Harris, Associate Professor of English, Director of UW Honors Program

Isadora A. Helfgott, Assistant Professor of History

Emily Hind, Associate Professor of Modern and Classical Languages

Frieda Knobloch, Associate Professor of American Studies

Laura DeLozier, Academic Professional Lecturer (Associate) in Modern and Classical Languages

Caroline E. E. McCracken-Flesher, Professor of English, Chair of English Department

Tracey Owens Patton, Professor of Communications, Chair of African American and Diaspora Studies

Bruce Richardson, Academic Professor Lecturer (Senior) of English, UW Casper College Center

Rachel Sailor, Assistant Professor of Art

Associated and Assisting Faculty

Ulrich Adelt, Assistant Professor of American Studies

Cheryl Burnett, Academic Professional Lecturer (Senior) of Criminal Justice

Kaijsa Calkins, Associate Librarian

John D. Dorst, Professor of American Studies

Kent Drummond, Associate Professor of Marketing

Maggie Farrell, Dean of UW Libraries

Carol Frost, Professor of Geology and Geophysics, Associate Provost

Rod Garnett, Professor of Music

Mark Greene, Director of the American Heritage Center

Robin Hill, Instructional Computer Services Coordinator, Elbogen Center for Teaching and Learning

Renee M. Laegreid, Associate Professor of History

Clifford Marks, Associate Professor of English

Eric Nye, Associate Professor of English

Rebecca Steele, Assistant Professor of German

Kelly Visnak, Assistant Librarian

Writing Committee

Paul V.M. Flesher, Susanna Goodin, Frieda Knobloch, Caroline McCracken-Flesher, Eric Sandeen

Appendix D. Process for Development of this Report

Timeline

During AY 2012, Associate Provost Carol Frost, on behalf of the offices of the President and the Provost, organized a series of faculty committees and campus conversions about how to enhance the humanities here at University of Wyoming. In August 2012, discussions were initiated with Provost Myron Allen to form a task force to create a concrete proposal for a humanities center. The Humanities Initiative Steering Committee was officially formed and charged with this task on November 2, 2012 with the expectation that a final report would be delivered on May 15, 2013.

The sixteen-member Steering Committee had three Friday-Saturday, facilitated “working weekends” across the academic year, November 30-December 1, February 1-2 and April 12-13. A campus-wide call for interested faculty to join in work sessions on each Saturday was issued and a further ten to fourteen faculty became regular participants, taking part in discussions, joining sub-committees, and generally helping move the work along.

Three sub-committees were formed from the entire range of participants which carried out activities between the weekend sessions. The Constituency and Stakeholders Committee held five focus groups and sessions with stakeholders to canvas the campus about what was already being done in humanities-related areas, what was needed for further support of humanities research and to explore ways of working with campus and state humanities organizations. The five groups featured: Deans and Directors, department heads, pre-tenure faculty, humanities and non-humanities faculty, and academic professionals. The Other Humanities Centers Committee talked with directors of other humanities centers, visited humanities centers at Stanford University and the University of Washington, and attended the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes conference at the Hall Center for the Humanities at the University of Kansas. The Mission Statement Committee designed a thoughtful and direct mission statement.

Facilitator

Dr. Todd Breyfogle, Director of Seminars, Aspen-Wye Institute

Dr. Breyfogle served as the outside facilitator for this process. He guided collaborative decision-making and consensus building discussions, working to keep the process moving and not permitting it to bog down in disagreement or irrelevancies. In between weekend meetings, he stayed in touch with the Steering Committee leaders to help the needed activities continue. He played an important role in helping the Steering Committee compose and complete the final report.

Appendix E. University Assets Relevant to the Humanities

The University of Wyoming and the state of Wyoming have several units that carry out activities, provide resources and deliver services relevant to the humanities. The Humanities Institute looks forward to working with these organizations in general and on specific joint projects.

In addition to the academic departments and programs located in the humanities, interdisciplinary and social sciences divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences, we have had formal and informal discussions with:

UW Libraries

American Heritage Center

UW Art Museum

Robert and Carol Berry Biodiversity Center

The William D. Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and National Resources

Wyoming Humanities Council.

Appendix F. Charge Letter