

**CURAH Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Division Meeting Arts and Humanities  
Thursday, June 23, 2016 (Meeting I) 6:30 – 8 pm**

Present (14)

Sara Orel, Chair

Maria Iacullo-Bird, Chair-elect

Joe Trimmer, E-Board rep

Alexa Sand, Secretary

Lynnette Overby

Michael Manson

Tom Scott

Bill Campbell

Julia DeLancey

Ian MacInnes

John Swift

Ruben Dupertuis

Alicia Giralt

Cheryl Nixon

Announcements about division membership (Sarah)

- Lynnette will sub for Iain Crawford on Finance committee tomorrow morning
- Bernadette McNary-Zak will possibly join us tomorrow morning
- Greg Young is on his way in (possibly delayed in Chicago)
- Two open councilor positions at end of Annual Business Meeting (ABM), for a membership of 24 total councilors

Introductions for benefit of new councilors

Discussion of goals for the ABM

Three points of strategic plan: raising profile, engaging membership, assessment

Raising the Profile/Engaging Membership:

Maria and Joe's NEH report/Humanities Connections Grant opportunity (Joe, Maria, with others jumping in)

- Mandate to address federal funding for undergraduate research in the humanities came from CURAH ABM discussions dating back to 2013.
- Advocacy committee
- 1 year ago at CUR Dialogues 2015, NEH Digital Humanities (ODH) presentation by Jennifer Serventi, Senior Program Officer from NEH/ODH who met afterwards with Maria and Joe and is an in-house advocate for UR. A follow-up meeting was held in March 2015 at NEH office in Washington, DC. Joe, Maria, Lindsey Currie, Kuna Tavalin, and Beth Ambos met with NEH program officers from a variety of areas; most of the officers hadn't much information about UR except for Jennifer who had done UR.

- Jane Atkins, Director of Research Division – if you look within the research division, there are opportunities but they're not specifically framed as such.
- Jennifer Servanti, Digital Humanities, although not specifically referenced, undergraduate research can be funded in a strong proposal.
- Katja Zelljadt, Challenge Grants; Wilsonia Cherry, Education, Adam Wolfson, Assistant Chairman for Programs also participating with various degrees of engagement and informed us that the Challenge grant was being rethought which might offer potential for a new funding project.
- Maria and Beth wrote a Letter of Inquiry for follow-up, with a tentative budget to propose a collaborative CUR-NEH sponsored Institute (invitation-only) to precede the CUR Dialogues Conference in February of 2016 to explore the value and impact of undergraduate research in the humanities in American higher education. To precede the Dialogues Conference would take full advantage of the existing hotel arrangements and make the location easier for NEH participants. Consultation with CURAH Division leadership and CUR Executive Board.

When this proposal did not advance, Maria and Joe worked with Beth to hold a mini-version of the proposed institute during Dialogues 2016 on Friday, February 19 which featured an opening town hall plenary session on Friday, February 19th, "Introduction and Plenary Session: Town Hall Meeting: Promoting Undergraduate Research in the Arts and Humanities," with Dialogue attendees across disciplines; Core questions were distributed and discussed; after the reportage and concluding comments, all notes were collected for analysis; Maria transcribed them and prepared Town Hall Meeting Report (distributed for A&H Councilor review and discussion). This information provided broadly interdisciplinary perspectives on "what is UR in the arts and humanities." This first morning session Plenary Town Hall Meeting framed an Arts and Humanities programming focus for the rest of the day as each concurrent session featured a program officer from either NEH or NEA. Digital Humanities (Jennifer) very open to projects that include UR and she distributed an informational sheet highlighting UR.

- Challenge grants are under a broad revision and both Research and Education presentations acknowledged UR in the humanities.

At the day's closing plenary Eva Caldera, the NEH Assistant Director for Partnership and Strategic Initiatives, announced important program initiatives including new grant opportunities which would address graduate and undergraduate education in the humanities! Funding from rethinking of Challenge grant. This new NEH funding opportunity *Humanities Connections Program* was formally announced on April 29 with a deadline of October 5<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/education/humanities-connections>

Faculty from at least two departments or schools at a single institution must collaborate to devise new curricular arrangements; looking for humanist/STEM connections, maybe?

- Projects must include provisions for high-impact student engagement activities related to the topics (long verbiage here, but clearly UR is included)
- Three linked courses
- \$100 K grants

- deadline October 5, 2016; can commence May 27, 2017
- Program Officer: Julia Nguyen 202-606-8213 (read the guidelines first)
- Important to get the word out about this grant so there is a strong application response.
- So, success – and the work left to be done is to get NEH to be more specific about the acceptability of UR in grant proposals in the other divisions
- Foundations (e.g. Mellon) – private funding that allows for UR in the budget (Mellon has given grants when PI's or institutions approach them but they don't have a specific program) Maria and Joe
- Also need to address UR and NEA Maria
- National Humanities Alliance; <http://www.nhalliance.org/> are looking at humanities majors in business and medicine

#### Other engagement issues

- Get rid of “affinity group” discussion list, either by purging and resubscription; USE THE RESUBSCRIPTION PROCESS to get the word out about Humanities Connections

#### Committees and Task Forces (do not have to populate all committees)

- Finance: Iain Crawford, sub Lynnette Overby
- Nominations: Alexa Sand
- CUR Fellows: Bernadette
- NCUR Oversight: John Swift
- POH: Ruben
- Advocacy: Maria
- Constitution and by-laws: n/a
- Program Review: Michael
- Assessment: Iain
- Diversity and Inclusion: Susan Wade (absent)
- Innovation and Collaboration: Wynne (absent) Lynnette Overby nominated, but Joe will go and fill her in
- IURIC: Ian, Sara (ex-officio)
- Internationalization: Julia, Alicia
- Student Programs: Stephen Kercher (absent), Cheryl will cover
- CURQ: Soledad Caballero (absent), Susan Brill de Ramirez stepping down as book review editor and as councilor
- CUR Biennial Planning Committee: Sara has volunteered

#### Plans for next year in terms of the pillars

Joe: commitment to diversity of ethnicity, gender, institution type (community colleges)

- Bill -- mine CUR databases for people at CCs from sponsored institutes, etc., enhanced members, NCUR participants, directors of UR...
- Joe – use AAC&U connections
- Sara – people from Dialogues

- Alexa – financial support for targeted councilor-categories (HBCUs, Tribal Colleges, Hispanic-Serving institutions)
- Bill -- \$2,500/year budget (goes back to CUR at the end of the year if unspent); any donations to CURAH; endowed fund
- Ruben: how to cast a broad net (not just our “neighbors”)
- Lynnette: more artists!
- Joe: not too many councilors from the same college/department within the division; not a rule but an informal agreement

Assessment: in relation to the humanities and arts—to devise and implement ways to assess UR in the A&H:

- What are we assessing? And what are the tools  
CUR Assessment Webinar?  
Best practices and guidelines; maybe a CURQ article out of a data-collection process
- Rubrics: self reporting, student outcomes, workforce issues
- CURAH GoogleDoc; set it up for assessment -- what works, what we do, what is the vocabulary for assessment

Raising profile – budget?

- This year: Funding for undergrads to go to NCUR (4 funded, 3 used it); 8-10 applications
- Going forward: Funding might target faculty-types to attend ABM as councilors?
- Arts Advocacy Day funded out of budget
- Revisit how we disburse funding

If we were going to take \$1,000 out of the budget, which pillar would you spend it on?  
(Homework question!)

**Friday, June 24, (Meeting II) 1:15-3:15 pm**

Biblical Deluge outside

Attending

Same list as 6/23, with the following additions:

Iain Crawford

Stephen Kercher

Bernadette McNary-Zak

Greg Young

Guest: Susan Larson

Sara: Email from Finance--Sandra Webster on the divisional budget

Questions to consider: How does divisional allocation help?

Assess impact of divisional spending and how to spend going forward.

Susan Larson (CUR president-elect)

- Priorities from divisions to e-Board and National Office (NO); will help with planning and direction
- (Sara); Ian's survey of disciplinary affinities – could the NO do this?
  - Susan – Robin may be the right person for this
  - National Office should at least be in the loop
- (Alicia); could there be an event/interest group/workshop on interdisciplinary research?
  - Conversation opportunities at ABM/Conference
  - CURQ articles (publication opportunities)

Finance questions (yesterday's homework)

- Currently 400-500 goes to Arts Advocacy Day. Four grants to students \$375 for attendance at NCUR or another conference. A little left over for last minute projects, e.g. Dave the Potter in 2014.
- Lynnette: reports figures – we're still forfeiting a lot of money (sometimes travel awards aren't claimed).
- [Discussion of how we could more effectively get info out about funds and how we could disburse them more broadly]. Options discussed:
  - Julia; possibly paying travel and/or membership expenses for councilors from underrepresented institutions/groups
  - Maria; community college faculty sponsorship, and Humanities Advocacy Day
  - Michael; an in-process award for projects that are not ready to be presented
  - John; we are not perceived as a funding source, and we might need to advertise; also website redesign and content development that will do a better job of advocacy – contacting PDs to let them know about the opportunity.
  - Sara; registration fee offset for community college reps (\$175)
  - Ian; cocktail party or reception at professional associations – a chance to hand out pens!

- Stephen; student-focused funding for travel and research. Also some online tools for winning presentations and posters: How to generate an excellent A&H Posters on the Hill (POH)
- Joe; longer lifespan expenditure – divisional blog or website with testimonials Jenny’s presentation on “how to do a poster” – make it available or create a short video. Lynnette also has one
- Iain; POH – very expensive. Could we support teams presenting there?
- Bill; MLA/AHA etc. (this got a bit muddled) – distributing materials at these conferences
- Cheryl; sponsoring an undergraduate at regional conferences [or sponsoring a session – Alexa]
- Tom: inclines toward the travel sponsorship, but something more substantial to make it worth applying to?
- Ruben: a model for actually spending all our money
- Bernadette: regional model seems viable/honors societies
- Cheryl: regional conferences – getting the word out, roundtables
- Greg; UR research project collaborating across campuses on getting the word out about CUR. Social media tie-in
- Lynnette: ideas from finance travel awards, mentor awards, webinars, co-sponsoring REU/summer scholars.

Alexa: proposes to post the list that we have so far and we will rank it.

Committee/Task Force reports:

- Nominations: Alexa – defining who we are; call for more diversity and statement for divisional page (Sara will draft a statement and we will discuss tomorrow);
- Assessment: Iain – tomorrow’s committee meeting will be a general discussion open to all councilors; look to disciplinary associations for best practices
- Program review: Michael – they would like to see a CURAH program review, they are also looking for program review opportunities at a department level (collected names of program reviewers); best practices webinar?
- Internationalization: Alicia and Julia – a “how to” document on internationalizing UR. A sort of “international studies 101.” Also an idea for a directory of international UR mentors. Funding opportunities from the nations themselves
- NCUR oversight: John – focused on internal procedures, NCUR Oversight Committee wants to continue to push Arts and Humanities participation; we need to identify a follow-up representative
- Advocacy: Maria – the committee will develop a plan to approach NEA (Lynnette)
- POH: Ruben – how should reviewers be recruited (start with councilors or go straight to members). We go straight to the members.
- Student Programs: Stephen and Cheryl – subcommittee on recruiting student CUR ambassadors; needed \$40k got \$5K from CUR to pilot the program. There is a good commitment to all forms of research and creative activity. Recruiting for faculty members will begin with good A & H representation on the recruiting committee.

- CUR Fellows: Bernadette, awards will be given at the conference on Sunday at 5:15 and call for next round out this fall
- Innovation: Joe – IDEA Grants three-year project to create “model programs.” Some confusion about membership on the Task Force, because the incoming president has to vet nominees
- Finance: Lynnette – tomorrow the committee would like answer the two questions sent in Susan’s e-mail (read at the beginning of this meeting).

**Proposed text:**

**The Division of Arts and Humanities represents a broad range of university and college faculty with a strong investment in undergraduate research and creative activity across disciplinary areas such as the following;**

**Visual Arts**

**Design**

**Media Arts**

**Music**

**Theater**

**Dance**

**Art History**

**Literature in English**

**Modern Languages and Literature**

**Classics and Ancient Language**

**Comparative Literature**

**Film Studies**

**Women’s and Gender Studies**

**Religious Studies**

**Ethnic Studies**

**Philosophy**

**American Studies**

**Archeology**

**Jurisprudence**

**History**

**Selected Interdisciplinary and Area Studies**

**Creative Writing**

## Saturday, June 25 (Meeting III) 9:15 –10:30 am

Attending: As of June 24

Maria I-B introduced herself as the new Division Chair, thanked past-chairs Sara and Iain.

Joe called for confirmation of committee and task-force list; Tom offered to stick a fork in his eye and join the Constitution and Bylaws committee (we did not have a representative)

### Committees and Task Forces (updated)

- Finance: Iain Crawford, sub Lynnette Overby
- Nominations: Alexa Sand
- CUR Fellows: Bernadette McNary-Zale
- NCUR Oversight: John Swift
- POH: Ruben Dupertius
- Advocacy: Maria Iacullo-Bird
- Constitution and by-laws: Tom Scott
- Program Review: Michael Manson
- Assessment: Iain Crawford
- Diversity and Inclusion: Susan Wade (absent)
- Innovation and Collaboration: Wynne (absent) Lynnette Overby nominated, but Joe attended
- IURIC: Ian, Sara (ex-officio)
- Internationalization: Julia Delancey, Alicia Giralt
- Student Programs: Cheryl Nixon
- CURQ: Soledad Caballero (absent)
- CUR Biennial Planning Committee: Sara Orel

### Agenda:

- Advocacy initiative: NEA (Maria) – Michael’s former student Amy Stolls is an NEA program officer
  - Foundations outreach for CUR partnership (Teagle, Lilly) (Joe and Maria)
- Funding conversation
  - Alexa reads out the list
  - Discussion; Bill recommended finalizing the divisional funding allocations at the AMB; important to spend the funds.
  - Arts and Humanities Advocacy: \$1000
  - Student Travel: POH (and NCUR) tied to an “excellence documentation” strand targeted at students/teams who could not otherwise participate for financial reasons and will require a letter from faculty mentor attesting to student need. \$1000 to be disbursed in amounts of >200<500. Will support engaging students as members (ambassadorship).



- \$500 in reserve for chair travel or events associated with outreach and discretionary spending (e.g. an exceptional need case)
  - Motion: Joe – Seconded by Greg, all in favor (unanimous)
  - Joe announced a donation he will be making to start a fund for the division
- Membership – Sara will work as liaison with enhanced institutional members and may need to form A&H divisional membership committee;
  - Models of Assessment – CURQ article with Alexa heading up project, collaborators welcome
  - Models of A&H UR Projects-- Creating a body of models for best practices, make A&H resources readily available for faculty and students on CUR website; materials on Higher Logic as well as CUR site.
  - Funding guide for UR in Arts and Humanities (Maria)
  - Discussion of website issues – need for redesign and maybe a student intern at National Office—can utilize Washington Center for Interns; updating of CURAH webpage; possible video testimonials for A&H website; look to geosciences for website/communication models [www.geocur.org](http://www.geocur.org)
  - Twice a semester an e-meeting; Skype maybe? NO or Maria can set up phone conference.
  - Streaming live events; video content?
  - Humanities/Arts and workforce resources page
  - To better communicate with A&H membership create webpage (blog) for division.  
Domain: CURAH
  - Ian MacInnes—[www.curartsandhumanities.org](http://www.curartsandhumanities.org)