Division of Arts and Sciences  
Report to the Strategic Alignment/Budget Reduction Review Committee  
March 15, 2010  

Larry Rodgers, Executive Dean  
Sherm Bloomer, Dean  
Sam Stern, Dean  

The Division of Arts and Sciences is the intellectual center of Oregon State University. It leads in answering the fundamental questions that underlie the natural sciences, the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences. Its core mission is to prepare students and pursue research and creative activity in foundational areas that both further OSU’s strategic plan and highly engage 21st century concerns.

OSU’s president and provost have together recognized that addressing the practical solutions to society’s problems is dependent on investing in the university’s basic knowledge areas. That investment via a hiring strategy that significantly increases faculty capacity across the division has been the premise by which organizational conversation in Arts, Sciences and Education has been able to proceed. The addition of such faculty will promote the kind of interdisciplinary collaboration across divisions necessary for sustaining the strategic plan. It is thus with some confidence that the division looks at the promise to hire 25-30 new faculty as an investment not just in its own future but in the entire university’s ability to attain the national stature to which it aspires.

A divisional faculty committee representing all three colleges has made significant progress in articulating the division’s mission; drafting short and long-term goals in education, research and outreach; and establishing a process for moving the division forward. The committee’s draft report has a range of activities that promote student success, improve faculty support for research and scholarship leading to greater productivity and distinction, and broaden divisional connections to external constituents. These opportunities have costs associated with them and require further conversations with the larger division and campus community, reflecting a process that is ongoing.

Areas under consideration that reflect potential divisional opportunities include three proposed cross-disciplinary units with strong divisional ties:

1. A Center for Research in Lifelong STEM Learning  
2. An Institute for Environmental Humanities  
3. A Center of Latino/a Studies and Student Engagement (CLSSE)

The division is evaluating the best means of improving student experiences across OSU and in taking a leadership role in the development, integration and continuing delivery of the baccalaureate core. That conversation has involved discussions surrounding opportunities and reporting areas involving the BaccCore, WIC, DPD, Academic Success, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and advising.