



OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & PROVOST

217 Swanlund Administration Building, MC-304
601 E. John St.
Champaign, IL 61820-5711

October 8, 2019

Eric Meyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Meyer:

Enclosed is a proposal from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research to rename the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, changing the name to "Humanities Research Institute," and establishing this entity as a permanent institute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn A. Martensen', written in a cursive style.

Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: A. Burton
N. Castro
M. Edwards
M. Loots
S. Martinis
A. Edwards
E. Stuby

**PROPOSAL TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESEARCH OR PUBLIC SERVICE UNIT¹
(INCLUDES CENTERS AND INSTITUTES)**

TITLE OF PROPOSED UNIT: The Humanities Research Institute

CONTACT INFORMATION: ANTOINETTE BURTON, DIRECTOR
aburton@illinois.edu
217- 244-3344

PROPOSED STATUS: Phase 2 (Permanent)

THE ILLINOIS PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES has been a hub of humanities scholarship, learning and engagement since its founding in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1997. IPRH now seeks a name change, from “Program” to “Institute,” to better reflect its mission to support and promote humanities research across the campus, and to align with the other institutes that have with similar cross-campus convening responsibilities.

1. UNIT OBJECTIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

As part of the robust and thriving Institute Ecosystem at Illinois, IPRH functions as a connector of both disciplines and people, illuminating new knowledge and supporting research and engagement activities. This is at the very heart of our mission as a land-grant institution, and is aligned with the OVCR’s commitment to convergent research that fosters scholarship, discovery and innovation.

IPRH became part of the campuswide institute ecosystem in 2015, transitioning reporting lines from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. (See associated documentation at <https://research.illinois.edu/iprh-transfer>). The Institute Ecosystem is a hallmark of the Illinois Research Enterprise, and IPRH is critical to the University’s vision for both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research excellence, across all units, departments, and organizational silos. Since 2015, we have been leaders in campus conversations about the humanities and STEM, data science and new horizons of technological innovation. Wherever new ideas and practices are being debated at Illinois, IPRH is at the table.

As noted in the Chancellor’s State of the University address in 2018:

“We need to begin letting our priorities and approaches to solving these human-scale problems be set and guided by our scholars, researchers and disciplinary experts – who best understand how and why they exist.

¹ This form is based on the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s application for an Administrative, Research, or Public Unit.

There are those who would say the 20th century was defined by advances in science and technology.

Whether you accept that or not, I am telling you that this century must be defined by advances in the humanities, the arts and the social sciences that let us come to terms with the repercussions and the implications of those twentieth-century discoveries.

We have a unique opportunity to be the intellectual, scholarly and educational center of gravity of this human-centered and human-driven century of progress. We have the strongest foundations and the deepest academic roots in the nation to characterize, analyze and decode these human-scale challenges.

We don't have to go create excellence in these disciplines. We already have it. All we need to do is to feed it and support it.

We're going to start by elevating the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities to a campus institute. This will come with new investments to add staff resources and develop infrastructure that fortifies and expands humanities scholarship and educational initiatives."

These comments are explicitly written into the campus strategic plan, in *Goal 1, Foster Scholarship, Discovery, and Innovation*. We state that we will "Affirm our commitment to the foundational role of the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences, and invest in their contribution to our research, creative, and innovation pursuits for the common good." The plan goes on to specify that we will: "Advance the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities to an institute with additional infrastructure, staffing, and support for leadership."

Humanities scholarship is at the very heart of the 21st century public research university. IPRH models a pluralistic vision of what research culture is and what research culture can be, building on past experiences, evolving as ideas and methods change, and deeply integrating diverse perspectives into questions we ask and the knowledge we generate.

The work of humanists is central to the continued vibrancy of the campus research enterprise, and while our primary focus is, and will remain, on research, the very nature of humanities research requires meaningful engagement with students at every level. While IPRH does not directly offer course credit, it does partner with the Colleges to add breadth and cross-disciplinary perspective to the student experience. For example, with the support of the Mellon Foundation, IPRH has fostered research and undergraduate curricular development in three emerging interdisciplinary areas in the humanities: Biohumanities (2016-18), Environmental Humanities (2018-2020), and Legal Humanities (2020-22). The Biohumanities group, which has already concluded its work, offered courses in this thematic area and generated an undergraduate certificate opportunity for those students interested learning about the interplay between the life sciences and society. The Environmental Humanities group is offering three undergraduate courses in conjunction with the Campus Program this academic year, with more sustained curricular

development to come. The Legal Humanities group will launch in fall 2020 and will eventually produce curricular opportunities for undergraduates as well.

With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we have historically had postdoctoral fellows who taught undergraduate courses through their relevant disciplinary units. IPRH has been instrumental in the foundation of the Medical Humanities Research cluster which has been deeply engaged in curricular development and in the integration of humanities research in both undergraduate courses in LAS and into the curriculum in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine.

As of September 2020, after a year-long planning grant process, IPRH has been awarded a \$2M grant from the Mellon Foundation to support interdisciplinary collaborative training for students in graduate programs in the humanities and arts, with a special emphasis on underrepresented minority students. The goal of the Interseminars initiative is to build communities of inquiry among graduate students and faculty at the University of Illinois around emerging research directions in the interdisciplinary humanities and arts. In so doing, we plan to prepare graduate students to be adept at both navigating and actively shaping the kind of higher education landscapes and cultures they want to see in the 21st century.

Since 1998, IPRH has supported a yearly cohort of graduate fellows who present their work in a bi-weekly interdisciplinary seminar and have the benefit of peer and faculty mentoring. While the majority are from LAS, graduate students from FAA, Media and the College of Education have been represented over the twenty-one years of the Campus Fellowship program.

IPRH is also deeply involved in education through its Odyssey Project, one of the university's programs that fosters community engagement and a pathway to higher education for income-eligible members of the local community.

Students enrolled in the Odyssey Project take a two-part series of core humanities courses (HUM 110, *Introduction to the Humanities I: Philosophy & Art History*; and HUM 111, *Introduction to the Humanities II, Literature and US History*; both 4 credit hour classes restricted to adult learners in the Odyssey Program) that introduce them to Literature, Philosophy, Art History and U.S. History taught by Illinois instructors. These face-to-face, discussion-focused courses offer Odyssey students the chance to learn in a supportive, interactive classroom environment with instructors whose expertise and pedagogical commitments provide a rich and dynamic learning environment rooted in humanities values and practices. The courses also devote significant resources to reinforcing critical thinking and writing skills in the context of the subject-matter covered. IPRH has led the project since 2006, and beginning 2019–2020, Odyssey courses are official non-degree Urbana campus courses. The courses are based in the College of LAS, which has generously granted a tuition waiver for Odyssey students. With the help of campus resources and a Mellon Foundation grant, IPRH supports student learning and success for members of our local community.

The unit already exists, but is seeking a name change to better reflect the breadth and vibrancy of our programs. We seek formal approval for Spring 2020. The proposed change to a “institute” status gives IPRH structural equivalence to the other units that report to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, including the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, the Prairie Research Institute, the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment, and the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute. (Note that the other members of this “institute ecosystem” that are named as centers have historical or funding-related reasons for maintaining their designations.)

2. NEED

IPRH serves stakeholders across campus, in the community, and around the nation. The idea for a campus-level humanities research institute is not new. In fact, a letter from then-Provost Berdhal (attached) details faculty support for the development of an institute that would work to put humanities scholarship on par with comparable efforts to build centralized science and engineering focused research institutes that were launching at the time. Other faculty led groups, including the “The Interdisciplinary Humanities Working Group” (see https://research.illinois.edu/files/upload/humanities_report_final_2015.pdf) and the “Humanities Task Force,” have since identified the same need: humanists pursue fields of study in every college across campus, and a campus-level institute that champions what humanists do and advocates for the centrality of humanities scholarship is vital. And just as the research activities of scholars in engineering, the sciences, and other disciplines inform education, IPRH provides space, time and resources for humanities scholars to adapt their research strategies to, to develop their research agendas, to advance new knowledge and support the educational mission of the university. For example, our Campus Fellowships give faculty the chance to pursue original research and writing. And one of our most recent projects, Training in Digital Methods, supports faculty efforts to develop digital skills that they can bring back to both their research and their teaching.

Through its leadership of the Humanities Without Walls consortium (<http://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu>), IPRH also serves the nation’s research community. Funded by the Mellon Foundation, HWW presents new avenues for collaborative research, teaching, and the production of scholarship in the humanities, forging and sustaining areas of inquiry that cannot be created or maintained without cross-institutional cooperation. HWW, headquartered at IPRH, has fast become a national leader in debates about career diversity for doctoral students seeking employment beyond the academy.

IPRH is also a member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, an international body that advances humanities centers and their work. The Director is a regular participant in annual convenings of the American Council of Learned Societies, which represents AAU institutions. In the last two years, we have developed a growing relationship with the National Humanities Alliance, representing Illinois and IPRH in important higher education conversations and circles. We leverage our national standing to promote and create opportunities for humanities across the whole university.

IPRH is also uniquely positioned to support the university's public engagement role. Since 2006, the Odyssey Project has served more than 270 students, a clear example of programming that strengthens connections with the local community.

3. ORGANIZATION

The unit has a lean administrative structure and reports to the Vice Chancellor for Research. The IPRH organizational chart is structured as follows:

CHANCELLOR

Vice Chancellor for Research

IPRH DIRECTOR

- Deputy Director
- Advisory Committee
- Administrative Staff

Additionally, the OVCR provides as needed support for IPRH in

- HR
- Finance
- Communications

The IPRH Director meets regularly with the Vice Chancellor for Research to align with campus goals and share information about administrative concerns and trends related to humanities scholarship. The Director, Antoinette Burton, has been deeply involved in leading the evolution of the IPRH from a college-based unit to a campus-focused unit. She will continue to be responsible for the overall mission, activities, and budget, in close consultation with the VCR, the IPRH Advisory Committee, and Staff. Every year we have a cohort of Faculty Fellows and Research Cluster directors. We have one 0%-time faculty affiliate. IPRH is not a home for tenure-line faculty

The IPRH is organized to respond both to stakeholder concerns and university aspirations through the participation of and ongoing engagement with members of the research community.

IPRH's Advisory Committee is advisory and consultative. The group, appointed by the director and chosen to reflect the breadth of humanists across campus, includes faculty from a range of departments. Members of the Advisory Committee serve staggered two-year terms. The advisory committee serves as a sounding board for the director and helps to select thematic research directions and evaluate fellowship applications. An External IPRH Advisory Committee, also appointed by the Director, provides advice on the national landscape, relative to IPRH.

The IPRH Director actively participates in the monthly meetings of the Institute Directors, providing a perspective from the humanities and looking for opportunities for collaboration and synergy. IPRH regularly consults with the broader community as well.

Following the publication of the campus strategic plan, representatives from IPRH held three Town Hall Meetings, on April 2 & 4, 2019, and September 5, 2019 with 45+ people in attendance. In addition, participants were given the option of responding to both paper surveys as well as responding online. Support for the continued evolution of IPRH was strong, with most discussion focusing on *what* to call the institute, not *whether* IPRH should be an institute.

The IPRH budget already exists, and is broken down in more detail in Section 6, below.

4. UNIT OUTCOMES

IPRH is home to thriving projects and programs that advance scholarship in the humanities, offer unique educational experiences, and support significant sponsored research engagements.

Humanities Centers across the nation strive to win competitive grants in a landscape where funding opportunities are scarce. IPRH has consistently punched above its weight in this regard, having been extremely successful in grant-making both internally and externally in the last decade. Our first Mellon grant was for \$1.25M in 2009. Since then, we have been awarded approximately \$12M worth of external grant funds. IPRH has also been successful at internal grant making: Training in Digital Methods for Humanities is supported by the Investment for Growth initiative at \$660,000 for 3 years. And IPRH is home to one of the first Presidential Initiative to Celebrate the Humanities and Arts grants (from the System), which will support a Year of Creative Writers in Illinois in 2020.

Our Research Cluster program, which offers modest seed finding for collaborative projects, has led to the success of a number of faculty teams securing internal and external funding for their interdisciplinary and cross-institutional projects. As well, many graduate student and faculty Campus Fellows have gone on to receive external awards for the work they developed in the IPRH bi-weekly seminar.

Through strong relationships with our sponsors, we expect steady and continued growth in our humanities research portfolio.

5. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESSES

IPRH staff reflect the quality of the research community that we support. Many are humanities scholars themselves, with advanced degrees and a depth of knowledge in humanities focused topics.

IPRH strives for both breadth of engagement and depth of programming. We gauge the success of our programs in many ways: the number of attendees at events, the impact of humanities scholars educated at the very cutting edge of humanities research, and the participation of campus scholars in our programs.

Events are the lifeblood of IPRH. Over the last 20+ years, we have hosted approximately 400 events, including invited speakers, workshops, and roundtables. We advertise these widely and evaluate each event after completion, including attendance, quality of engagements, and logistical support. The vast majority of these events are open to the general public, contributing to the University’s public engagement mission and strengthening our ties to the local community. We undertake partnerships with organizations on and off campus, which means that we strive to have what we do emerge out of local needs. And we have a robust communication strategy in order to reach a wide variety of audiences.

IPRH fellowships drive topical, focused humanities research at Illinois. Fellows are selected by the Advisory Committee. Faculty fellows are provided with one semester of release time and research funds. Graduate Student Fellows are given a stipend and a tuition and partial fee waiver for the academic year of the award. All Fellows are expected to maintain residence on the Illinois campus during the award year, and to participate in IPRH activities, including the yearlong Fellows Seminar.

Along with the other institutes, IPRH participates in an annual reporting process to the OVCR. Institute directors summarize activities, events, diversity efforts, and evaluate space and staffing needs. This yearly reporting helps to ensure alignment between university, the IPRH, and the campus research community.

Internally, we report regularly to our Advisory Committee. We also require reporting of annual activities from our staff and from our awardees.

6. RESOURCES

Estimated Costs and Sources of Funds for Proposed Unit						
Illinois Higher Education						
			Year of Operation			
			1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Expenditure						
	Personnel		10	11	11	11
	Faculty Count	by # of FTE	1	1	1	1
		Personnel Expenditures in \$	\$1,191K	\$1,251K	\$1,272K	\$1,292K
	Other Personnel Costs in \$					
	Supplies, Services, Equipment ¹ in \$		\$250K	\$379K	\$379K	\$379K
	Facilities in \$					
		Total	\$1,441K	\$1,630K	\$1,650K	\$1,671K
Resources						

Current Unit		\$817K	\$817K	\$817K	\$817K
Other Internal Sources ²		\$137K	\$139K	\$142K	\$145K
Federal Funds					
Fees, Sales, Other Income		\$487K	\$494K	\$501K	\$508K
New State Appropriation			\$180K	\$190K	\$201K
	Total	\$1,441K	\$1,630K	\$1,650K	\$1,671K
¹ Includes expenditures for library resources.					
² Reallocation within institution from other budgetary unit.					
Note: Do not estimate inflationary factor.					
Narrative must accompany this table					

Budget Narrative:

IPRH currently has ten full-time-equivalent (FTE) employees funded by institutional funds and private grant funds. The Director holds a faculty appointment in the Department of History. This appointment is reflected in the Faculty Count listed in the budget table.

Personnel expenditures include salary and benefits, where applicable. Fellowship stipends of \$237K per year are also included in personnel expenditures. Student hourly and fellowship appointments are not included in the FTE. The annual increase in personnel expenditures reflects an expected annual salary program of 2% and an FTE increase of 1 in the second year. The increase in FTE is expected to be partially funded by institutional funds.

Funding from private sponsors are included in "Fees, Sales, Other Income" resources. Institutional match funds associated with awards from private sponsors are included in "Other Internal Sources" resources. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has committed an additional \$170K in permanent funding for IPRH. These permanent funds will likely accrue to IPRH at the end of FY20 and are therefore reflected in Year 2 as "New State Appropriations" resources. Funding for an annual salary program of 2% is also included as "New State Appropriations" resources beginning in Year 2. These additional funds are associated with State funded salaries only. The annual increase in the "Fees, Sales, Other Income" resources also reflects an expected annual salary program of 2%.

CLEARANCES:

A letter of support from the unit to which the proposed unit will directly report must be included.

(Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. **These signatures must appear on a separate sheet.** If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)



Proposal Clearances:



Date:



Proposal Clearances:

10-7-19

Date:

Proposal Clearances:

Date:

Attachments

7/1/32
/CUE Box 1 Folder "CUE Concs 1988-91" Jim [unclear] → Berdahl

May 19, 1989

Professor Robert Sprague
Institute for Research on Human Development
109 ICBD
MC-260

Dear Bob (or Professor Sprague):

Thank you very much for sharing your letter to Walter Feinberg with me and for your expression of support for a program of the kind proposed through the Institute. Your courses sound very much related to the focus of the Institute, as do your on-going concerns about scientific ethics. I hope that when the Institute is established, it will be able to serve these areas.

In response to your questions about the development and funding of the Institute: The decision to establish the Institute was made by a committee of faculty members who were concerned to highlight the important role that questions of values and ethics play in all areas of research and teaching. The idea for such a committee developed out of discussions in the Graduate College Executive Committee on ways to enhance the position of the arts, humanities, and social sciences on this campus. The committee was appointed in January, 1987. As you recall, that was a time when the University had been very successful in a number of initiatives that had been advanced in science and engineering. Two centers for supercomputing, the Beckman Institute, and the Microelectronics Center, had recently been established. The charge to the original EPIC committee was to explore the possibility of developing "similar momentum in other disciplines which are essential to a comprehensive university."

Emerging EPIC Program Initiatives Committee

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7/1/32
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Emerging
Program
Initiatives
Committee

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The Dean of the Graduate College and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs then asked the heads of academic units to recommend faculty for the committee and appointments were made from that list with Jim Carey, Dean of the College of Communication, as chair. During the early months of its operation, the committee solicited ideas from the entire University faculty and then used the responses to guide its own proposal. After the proposal was submitted to the administration, a new committee to help implement it was established, and Walter Feinberg was asked to chair it.

I hope that the above provides some idea of the mechanism by which the committee was generated and the idea behind it. At this moment the Institute is not officially established. However, we expect to follow the usual University procedures in doing so.

I believe that it is very important to find ways to enhance the arts, humanities, and social sciences on campus and I hope the Institute will be one way to do this. This campus has few, if any, adequate mechanisms through which a potential donor might direct funds to these areas. Thus, most of the fund raising efforts on behalf of these areas are undertaken in a piecemeal way and with mixed and limited results. Without undercutting existing efforts, our hope is that the Institute will provide the President, Chancellor Weir, and myself with the structure to attract funding in these areas and that this funding will allow the University to do new and important things even under conditions of budgetary constraint. Of course, one cannot expect that all funds will come from external donors. It is important that the university express its commitment and thus, recurring funds will be requested. However, this is no different than any new program in the university, whether it be in agriculture, engineering or education.

Handwritten: Folder CIE Conca 1308-9, * dim → ...

You are quite right in expressing concern over the University's problem with resources, but I do not think that it will do to frame that issue in terms of a competition between existing and emerging programs. This will likely dampen initiative and inhibit the development of programs that can enhance the impact of traditional areas. Funding for EPIC has yet to be determined, but my hope is that it will add significantly to the intellectual resources of the campus, and as a result, will be important in supporting traditional scholarly activities and in attracting outside funds.

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Again, thanks for your expression of interest and I do hope EPIC will be able to serve your important research interests.

Sincerely,