MEMO

To: Dean Robin Douthitt
   Dean Gary Sandefur
   Dean Julie Underwood

From: Patrick Farrell, Provost
       Darrell Bazzell, Vice Chancellor for Administration

Subj: Arts and Humanities Initiative

December 11, 2006

In recognition of the critical importance of UW-Madison’s arts and humanities faculty, staff, and departments, we are pleased to inform you that the University will allocate $500,000 on a continuing, annual basis to enhance base support for arts and humanities disciplines. The $500,000 amount will be distributed as follows:

- College of Letters and Science $375,000
- School of Education $90,000
- School of Human Ecology $35,000

The amounts will be distributed annually as one-time renewable allocations in the annual budget process. The distribution of the $500,000 will be evaluated periodically to determine whether amounts should be reapportioned between your units, based on changes in faculty demographics and/or programming of the funds by your units. Regardless of the potential for reapportionment of funds, the total $500,000 amount is a permanent commitment to support arts and humanities faculty, staff, and departments, which will not diminish over time.

In addition to the $500,000 allocation, the University is committed to the provision of permanent operating costs (salary, fringe benefits and necessary supplies and expense lines) for the new position of Director of the Arts Institute. Moreover, the University will request from the State Building Commission one-time funding required to remodel space in Memorial Library to house the new Institute. Current estimated project costs are $1.3 million.

Based on our discussions, we understand that over the next year or two, the additional support will be used primarily to defray costs and mitigate impacts associated with the new tuition remission surcharge on arts and humanities departments. You have indicated that, among other priorities, in subsequent years it should be possible to reprogram the allocations to provide general graduate student assistance and course releases for junior faculty who have few opportunities for external grant support.
As part of this initiative, we expect to receive an annual report before the end of each fiscal year from each of your units which documents the use of the funds for the current year and outlines how the funds will be programmed the following year. As indicated, we will synthesize this information with other data to periodically assess whether reapportionment of funds is warranted.

At this time of scarce discretionary resources and pending future budget reductions, we are very fortunate that it was possible to devise a funding plan that was broad enough in scope, and of such a magnitude, that it would have a meaningful effect on the arts and humanities disciplines. Funding for this initiative derives from the final uncommitted balance of the 2005-07 strategic reinvestment account and from institutional reallocations which will have to be implemented in the 2007-08 budget process.

We look forward to working with you on this exciting new initiative and to seeing its impacts on the University’s arts and humanities communities.

xc: Chancellor Wiley  
University Committee  
Tim Norris