

College Funding Initiatives for 2011-2013

Preliminary thoughts and funding needs

November 15, 2009

Provost Riordan

These initiatives are derived from conversations with department chairs in CFPA, community advisory board members, the college SCOTs analysis and other leaders on campus. These preliminary ideas shape the discussion of what is essential for the future of the arts at Western, as well as larger goals to be included in the developing university campaign plan.

Increase resources to restore program funding and instructional losses:

Secure resources to bring operational budgets and staffing back to a level that is sufficient to sustain high quality programming, replace tenure lines that were lost and support faculty and student activities through restored operational budgets.

Create a Pipeline for high quality, diverse students through a new DIVAS program:

DIVERSITY in the ArtS (DIVAS) would be a program where faculty and administrators would identify regional high schools where there are high percentages of minority students, visit those schools to make presentations, provide workshops and assist in their transition to college.

Resources to support these activities and provide scholarships for these students are essential. The program director would also serve as the mentor and advisor for these students once on campus to help with retention and socialization. Need: 1 FTE professional staff as program director: \$60k

Increase student participation in international, service and humanitarian experiences:

Develop resources, partnerships and sister programs for students to participate in some sort of cultural or service learning experience at least once during their time at Western. In the arts we would like to strive for 100% of students participation in such an experience before graduation. This would start with a structured plan with the Center for International Studies on campus along with developing student exchanges with sister universities around the world with arts programs. Alternative experiences could include such opportunities as Semester at Sea, Alternative Spring Break and Habitat for Humanity. Need: Annual support funding for student stipends: 275k

Create an environment that is inviting and academically invigorating – renovate the Armory:

Provide facilities that have the technology and resources needed to provide the experiential opportunities for students to be competitive in the professional world. This starts with a complete renovation and equipping of the old Armory building to house the Design and Technology programs, the Dance program and a multi-purpose, medium sized performance hall (for dance, music recitals, theatre performances and art exhibits). Currently these programs have been displaced all over the city in three different leased spaces making it impossible for students to travel between classes on time or safely. Additionally the Arts Annex and Fine Arts buildings need renovation and additional space as well as the Western Gallery: 75 million total.

Restructure the College of Fine and Performing Arts:

Align the college structure to enhance program synergies, provide for independent growth and responsibility, and allow for a competitive edge with peer institutions. The three current departments would become schools with 11-month directors and certain programs would become departments. A new **School of Integrated Arts** would be created to house eventual new departments to include: Arts Education (bringing together the arts coordinators from all arts areas under a new administrator to be shared with Woodring); Musical Theatre; Entertainment Design and Technology (from the former programs of scenic, lighting, sound and costumes along with a new Film Production program in conjunction with Fairhaven and Communication); Arts Administration (a 2+2 MBA – MFA with the College of Business and Economics); and the Center for the Integration of Arts and Technology (CI-ART) with Science and Technology. Need: Salaries for directors at .2 FTE each, a new director of Integrated Arts – 1 FTE, .5 FTE for Arts Education Chair and 5 FTE for Musical Theatre and Film – Total: \$500k

Develop a campus wide Arts Fee – The STARS program:

Following a technology audit to demonstrate the need for additional resources to provide for technology, infrastructure and access, we propose to add a per credit fee across campus to support all arts activities within the college. An CFPA student advisory board would recommend to the dean how the fees collected would be used following specific guidelines. All items purchased would be affixed with a STARS label – **Shaping The Arts Reality for Students**.

Establish the new School of Music as an All Steinway School:

To achieve such a prestigious goal and national recognition requires that 90% of all pianos in the Music department be Steinway built pianos or otherwise authorized by Steinway. Under current conditions, this would require a one-time allocation of 1.75 million to achieve this status.

Establish a Fine Arts Academy:

Create an arts academy that offers community members of all ages the opportunity to take music, dance, theatre and art lessons from vetted junior and senior fine arts majors. The community members pay a fee (on a sliding scale adjusted for income) to take these lessons and the students are paid above minimum wage for teaching. This allows the students to gain valuable teaching experiences while helping them pay their way through school. A full time Academy Director coordinates the hiring of students, training, scheduling and finances of the operations and is eventually paid from the income of the fees to become self-sustaining. Partnering with Woodring and the new Arts Education department would be essential for training the students in basic pedagogy and establishing outcomes for on going assessment. Fulltime Professional Staff position of 75k for academy director.