MEMORANDUM

TO:       Institutional Effectiveness Council

FROM:     Tim Edwards

DATE:  25 January 2013

RE:  Executive Summary of Planning and Assessment Documents and Priorities for the College of Liberal Arts

The College of Liberal Arts, comprised of the Department of Behavioral Sciences, the Department of Fine Arts, the Department of History and Social Sciences, and the Department of Languages and Literature, is a large and diverse academic unit charged with servicing a considerable percentage of the University’s basic curriculum. Moreover, the college historically has served the campus and region in a number of significant ways, via the Honors Program, the Livingston Press, the UWA choir and theatre programs, and the staging of the annual Black Belt Symposium. In addition, as the following list of accomplishments clearly demonstrates, the College of Liberal Arts continues to enhance the University’s profile through its faculty members’ achievements in scholarship, creative works and performances, community and regional service, and high-quality instruction.

Accomplishments 2011-2012

Department of Behavioral Sciences

Key Achievements (Faculty and Departmental)

* The Department of Behavioral Sciences hired its first choice candidate in the recent sociology tenure-track faculty search. Dr. Nicole Farris joined the faculty in the fall 2012 term.

* Dr. Mark Davis published a chapter with former student Stephanie Murray in Emotional Expression: The Brain and the Face (Vol. 3) (Davis & Murray, 2011). The chapter was titled “Facial reactions to threat: An investigation of the comprehensive theory of reactions to social threat.” He presented research with former student Craig Warlick at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) annual convention in San Diego, CA. The research was titled “Reduction of explicit negative attitudes to stereotype-based comedy.” Dr. Kelly Pivik-Kelley, Stephanie Murray, and Angel Jowers also contributed to that research (Davis, Warlick, Murray, Pivik-Kelley, & Jowers, 2012). He also presented research with Dr. Amy Jones at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) biennial conference in Charlotte, NC (Jones & Davis, 2012). The research was titled “Does color matter? Audience perceptions of criminally convicted athletes.” Finally, Dr. Davis began his formal research lab this year (Intergroup Perceptions, Emotions, and Attitudes Research Laboratory—IPEARL). Dr. Davis and Dr. Pivik-Kelley ran the lab along with seven undergraduate research volunteers (Alexis Hewitt, David Quaker, Justin Garris, Breanna Black, Amber Hudson, Kenny Slavik, and Virginia Gremmels). Two of the most recent graduates from UWA & the IPEARL lab began their graduate programs this fall (Craig Warlick—Kansas University & Carolyn Mancuso—University of South Florida). The lab has two active research projects in the experiment phase and two in the analysis phase.

* Dr. Russell Davis. Assistant Professor of Sociology served as a paper reviewer for the Mid-South Sociological Association graduate student research paper competition. He served on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Rural Health Association. He also served as a consultant for the Alabama
Poverty Project, he was a research associate for Auburn University Montgomery, Center for Demographic Research, and was a guest speaker for the Alabama Coalition for Constitutional Reform (Racism and Social Change: The Challenge of a Shifting Target). Dr. James Gilbert. Assistant Professor of Counseling/Psychology served as a consultant with Psychology Associates as a Licensed Professional Counselor. He also worked with the Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors to establish a standard between courses at UWA and the license requirements for each state.

**Department of Fine Arts**

**Key Achievements (Faculty and Departmental)**

*The addition of new staff member Anthony Johnson has boosted the performance levels of the UWA Theatre Program and also aided tremendously in the day-to-day operations of Bibb Graves Auditorium.

*Under the direction of Mr. Willie Williams, the UWA Concert Choir and Singers have also increased their numbers leading to another high in membership with 70 participants, and 55 scholarship students in the Concert Choir and another 19 students participating in the UWA Singers. In addition to performing for both the Fall and Spring Commencement exercises, the choir performed for such events as the UWA Tree Lighting Ceremony, the Bank of York 100th Anniversary Celebration, *The Face in the Courthouse Window,* one of the finest Christmas Concerts in recent memory (with attendance reaching over 400), a successful Spring Concert, and the Legacy Celebration to commemorate Black History Month. Mr. Williams was also served as musical director for the UWA Theatre Program’s production of *Godspell* and directed *The Face in the Courthouse Window* in Carrollton.

*The UWA Theatre program has also continued to expand and increase its presence on The University of West Alabama’s campus. This past season included a standing room only production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, a staged reading of *A Number*, and a packed-house performance of *Godspell*. Of particular note this year was the fact that the first UWA student to complete the Theatre Minor graduated this Spring. Ms. Carolyn Mancuso completed the Theatre Minor in just its second year of availability. As the school year drew to a close, the theatre program is continuing to stay active as the first phase of renovations to the Bibb Graves Auditorium have gotten underway.

*The Art Program faculty also coordinated the student showcase, as well as actively pursuing showcases for their own work. This year’s Student Art Show saw an exceptionally large crop of quality work, and the exhibit was extremely well attended. Mr. Nick Davis also coordinated the purchase and installation of two new sculptures in the UWA Sculpture Garden.

*Mr. Arthur Grothe served as a respondent for the American College Theatre Festival and also was a VIP guest for the ACTF Region III Festival where he responded to numerous productions, was a judge for the NAP-AT Classical Acting Award, as well as performing in the Staged Reading of *Laughing Stock*.

*Mr. Nick Davis exhibited his work at “Alabama’s Finest” at the Gadsden Museum of Art in Gadsden, AL. Mr. Davis also had his work featured in “The Plastic Propaganda Poster Project” at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, UT and displayed his work as a part of Spring Art and Photography Show at the Coleman Center for the Arts in York, AL. Mr. Davis also served as Director of the Sumter County Fine Arts Council’s Sculpture Exhibition and as Chair of the Art Committee for Sucarnochee Folk Life Festival.

*Dr. Manley Blackwell served as adjudicator for the following music festivals: “Alabama Federation of Music Clubs District Festival” in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the “Huntsville Music Teachers Association District Auditions” in Huntsville, Alabama. Dr. Blackwell performed for numerous university events,
several recitals in conjunction with the University of Alabama’s music program, and for the Sucarnohee Revue program.

*Mr. Eric Larson has continued to perform with the Oak Ridge Symphony as the Principal Oboe, as well as being appointed Assistant Principal Oboe for the Manhattan Chamber Philharmonic. He also performed this year with the Bowling Green State University Drum Corps International performance in Bowling Green, Ohio. Mr. Larson also worked over 120 hours of volunteer disaster relief in Tuscaloosa, Alabama following last year’s horrific tornado.

*Ms. Jessica Smith has been exhibiting her work not only in the states, but also overseas: at the “Contemporary Exhibition” in Andenne, Belgium, the “Central Times Ceramics” in Peoria, Illinois, the “Valdosta National” in Valdosta, Georgia, “Tactile” in Dayton, Ohio, and “Mini-Works on Paper” in Jacksonville, Alabama. In addition Ms. Smith attended an Artist Residency in Port Townsend, Washington and was one of five international artists invited to the Emerging Artist Series in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Finally, the Fine Arts Department has continued to upgrade its facilities, including the purchase of new uniforms, audio-visual equipment, and on-going efforts to document the history and growth of all the Fine Arts Programs.

Department of History and Social Sciences
Key Achievements (Faculty and Departmental)

*In 2012, the Department of History and Social Sciences took over as the institutional host for the Alabama Review.

*Dr. Haveman had an article accepted for publication by Native South, submitted his revised book manuscript to University of Nebraska Press, secured a contract to publish an edited collection on Creek Removal with University of Alabama Press.


*Dr. Dumas presented the paper “French Colonial Archaeology at Fort Tombecbe in West Central Alabama” at the 68th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Jacksonville, Florida, 5 November 2011. Dr. Dumas continued to serve as editor of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology; served on the Editorial Advisory Board of American Archaeology magazine (until March 2012); co-organized a nationwide effort to defeat Alabama House Bill 54 and Senate Bill, which proposed to amend the Alabama Underwater Cultural Resources Act; co-founded the Coalition to Protect Alabama’s History (www.c-pah.org and on Facebook); was appointed to the Council on Alabama Archaeology; was appointed to the Magnolia Grove Foundation, Greensboro; served as dissertation committee member for Paul Eubanks, University of Alabama; and led a four-week intensive archaeological field school and research project at Fort Tombeche, resulting in the discovery and partial excavation of the French bakery. Dr. Dumas also secured two grants: an Alabama Historical Commission Preservation Grant for the 2012 Fort Tombecbe Archaeological Field School (AHC 2012-03), $15,785; and a UWA Research Grant for “Microscopic Analysis of Native American Pottery,” $737.

*Dr. Griffith served as moderator and panelist on a Roundtable on Alabama Politics at the Annual Meeting of the Alabama Political Science Association April, 2012
Department of Languages and Literature
Key Achievements (Faculty and Departmental)

* October and April: the department hosted the second and third installments of the Callaway Schoolhouse Fiction and Poetry Reading and Workshop, featuring faculty members from the University of Alabama creative writing program. In April, the department hosted Alabama author Irene Latham for the Black Belt Symposium. This included writing workshops for area middle-school students, led by our honors students, as well as a reading and book signing on campus.

* In October and March, the department held Poetry at the Lake events.

* In October, Languages and Literature also hosted alumnus Joseph Musso as he conducted a playwriting workshop for our students.

* In July 2011, the department took eight students to tour Oxford, MS, as part of the Reed Literary Odyssey, and in June, 2012, nine students to tour Asheville, NC, as part of the same program.

* In April, two Sigma Tau Delta chapter members attended its national convention in New Orleans.

* In March, UWA Journalism students placed in the following categories at the 2012 Southeast Journalism Conference: Hayley Taylor, 3rd Place in Public Service Journalism Studio 96, 5th Place in the Best Video News Program In March, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved the new Integrated Marketing Communications major.


* Dr. Alan Brown published two books on ghosts: Ghosts along the Mississippi River (UP of Mississippi) and Haunted Meridian (History Press). Dr. Brown also submitted an article titled “Edgar Allan Poe and the Gothic Movement” for Poe in Context, which will be published by the Cambridge University Press in 2012; presented five conference papers; conducted other workshops on rhetorical devices, becoming a “ghost writer,” and a six-session series titled “Literature and Health Care” at the VA Hospital in Tuscaloosa, AL, for the Alabama Humanities Foundation.


* Mr. Greg Jones presented conference and workshop papers on Turnitin.com, combating plagiarism, and on creating blogs.

**Honors Program**

**Key Achievements**

*Key achievements of the Honors Program during the 2011-2012 academic year include the following:*

*Honors Orientation with information session and early registration. All academic advisors who assisted during Honors Orientation reported great success in registering students using web registration (a feat not replicated among the general student population during the regular Orientation session)*

*Common Book Experience: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. All Honors freshmen participated in this reading project and attended lab demonstrations and the Fall Honors Symposium with Dr. Venkat Sharma as guest speaker.*

*100% of graduating Honors seniors completed all requirements for the Honors Program, earning the designation of Honors Scholar.*

*Over 50% of graduating Honors seniors gained admission into graduate programs in their respective fields.*

*Honors Program members traveled to Nashville, TN, on a cultural excursion that involved tours of cultural, artistic, and historical sites.*

*Six members of the Honors Program served as reading mentors for a Big Read Project in the Sumter County area; this mentorship was part of the events associated with the annual Black Belt Symposium.*

**Livingston Press**

**Key Achievements**

The Press published the following works:

**Novels**

*The Made-up Man* by Karen Heuler, a teacher in the Gotham Writers Project from New York. This novel was reviewed in *Booklist* and *New York Journal of Books*.

*Americanization: A Novel* by Angus Woodward, from Baton Rouge, LA.

*Lizard World* by Terry Richard Bazes, a novelist from upstate New York. This novel was reviewed in *Publishers Weekly, New York Journal of Books*, and *Booklist*.

*36* by Martin Berman-Gorvine, from Annapolis, MD.

*Everybody Says Hello* by Michael Kun, a novelist from Los Angeles, CA.
**Short Story Collections**

*Married But Looking* by Daniel S. Lidman, from Chicago, IL. This collection was reviewed in Booklist, Publishers Weekly and New York Journal of Books.

*The Brick Murder: A Tragedy* by Kurt Jose Ayau, from Virginia. This collection was reviewed in *Booklist*.

*Margins of Tolerance* by Eric Sasson from New York City.

*We Have A Pie* by Robert McVey from New York City.

*The Galaxie and Other Rides*, by Josie Sigler from Seattle, WA

*Deep Tissue*, by Jeff Tapia, a teacher from Austria was reviewed in the *New York Journal of Books*

**Memoirs**

*The Lonesome Low Down Long Gone Outbound Scootertrash Blues* by Mark Tiger Edmonds, from Tampa, FL. This was reviewed in *BMW Rider* magazine and *The St. Petersberg Times*.

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Items Needing Action (Listed in Order of Priority)

**Department of Behavioral Sciences**

1. Hire Ph.D. in Psychology in order to implement M.S. in Psychology.

2. $5,000 increase in departmental travel budget. The department is especially active with a host of junior faculty members with extremely active research agendas. The department’s commitment to undergraduate research further underscores the need for increased funding. The current funding level is $2335.

**Cost:** $45,830 (salary) + $14,850 (benefits) = **$60,680**

**Total Cost:** $65,680

**Department of Languages and Literature**

1. Hire ESL lecturer/tutor to serve growing international student population. Dr. Azocar is already overloaded with coursework and tutoring/mentoring.

**Cost:** $29,995 (salary) + $12,504 (benefits) = **$42,499**
Department of Fine Arts

1. Hire full Ph. D., DMA, or Ed. D. in music to serve the Interdisciplinary Arts program and work toward recovering a free-standing music major. Dr. Manley Blackwell, in particular, has been burdened with teaching overloads for some time now.

   **Cost:** $45,830 (salary) + $15,749 (benefits) = $60,680

   **OR**

   Hire one lecturer (or above) in theatre: Mr. Grothe routinely teaches an overload of one of more courses per term. Growth in IA major is requiring increased upper-level offerings in all fine arts disciplines, especially theatre.

   **Cost:** $29,995 (salary) + $12,504 (benefits) = $42,499

2. Create and fund five theatre scholarships at $750 per scholarship per semester ($7,500 per academic year) and increase choir scholarships by $6,400 per academic years: $100 increases for each of fifty choir scholarships and increase the four section leader scholarships by $50 each. UWA Theatre has never offered scholarship support for students. Such a system of support would strengthen recruiting and reward talented students for their hard work. Similarly, choir recruiting would be strengthened by an enhanced scholarship package.

   **Cost:** $7,500 (theatre) + $6,400 (choir) = $13,900

**Total Cost:** $60,680 (or $42,499 for lecturer) + $13,900 = $74,580 (or $56,399 for lecturer plus scholarships)

Department of History and Social Sciences

1. Hire a lecturer in history to strengthen coverage of survey courses, which now max out at fifty. Upper-level offerings have been restricted by the need for senior faculty to cover basic curriculum courses.

   **Cost:** $29,995 (salary) + $12,504 (benefits) = $42,499

   **Total Cost:** $42,499

Honors Program

1. The Honors Program requests an additional $1800 to fund the following:

   Recruitment (postage, travel, etc.): $300
   Orientation (dinner, t-shirts, etc.): $500
   Development (grad school testing and admissions): $1000

   **Total Cost:** $1,800
Livingston Press

1. The Press requests an additional $1950 to help fund attendance at the annual Association of Writing Programs Conference. Attendance (the Press also sets up a booth at the conference) helps recruit writers and students and serves to publicize the University in general.

   **Total Cost: $1,950**

**Grand Total: $229,008 (or $209,927 if lecturer in TH rather than asst. prof in MU)**