

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** New Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, ISU  
**Date:** May 12, 2003

---

**Recommended Action:**

Approve a new ISU center to be called the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities.

---

**Executive Summary:**

Iowa State University requests approval for the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities (CEAH), a new University-wide center that will serve faculty and staff members from the arts and humanities disciplines. These individuals are primarily in departments in the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Design, Family & Consumer Sciences and Education. The Center will administratively report to the Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies.

Support and  
Coordinated  
Research in Arts  
and Humanities

The Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities has as its mission to support and coordinate research and related activities in the arts and humanities. This Center will support distinction in humanistic scholarship and artistic creation at Iowa State and serve as a focal point for building interdisciplinary collaborations, both within and between the arts and humanities and all other academic endeavors at this University. The Center will support projects that explore the distinctive role of the arts and humanities in a land-grant university, encouraging the strengthening relationship between these areas and communities in Iowa and beyond.

Funded by Internal  
ISU Reallocation

Funding for the Center is available through internal reallocation from various administrative offices. The commitment is for an initial three-year period though this funding level may be continued based on a successful future review of the Center's operation. Additionally, the Center Director will seek to build financial support for future operations through fundraising and the submission of external grant applications.

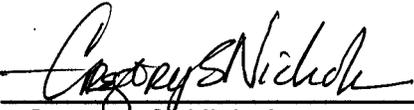
---

Board Questions for The University's response to the Board of Regents questions for  
New Centers and new centers and institutes is attached.  
Institutes

---

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert J. Barak

h/aa/docket/2003/May/GD2i

Approved:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory S. Nichols

## **Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities (CEAH)**

### **1. What is the title of the proposed center or institute?**

This center will be called the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities (CEAH).

### **2. What is the administrative relationship of the proposed unit to other entities on campus, such as departments or colleges?**

This is a university-wide center that will serve faculty and staff members from the arts and humanities disciplines. These individuals are primarily tied to many different departments in the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Design, Family & Consumer Sciences and Education.

### **3. To whom will the administrative director of the unit report?**

The director of this center will report to the Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies.

### **4. Succinctly describe the basic purposes and objectives of the unit.**

The Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities has as its mission to support and coordinate research and related activities in the arts and humanities. This Center supports distinction in humanistic scholarship and artistic creation at Iowa State and serves as a focal point for building interdisciplinary collaborations, both within and between the arts and humanities and all other academic endeavors at this university. The Center will support projects that explore the distinctive role of the arts and humanities in a land-grant university, encouraging the strengthening relationship between these areas and communities in Iowa and beyond.

#### **a. How will the activities of the unit relate to the general mission and teaching programs of the university?**

Iowa State University's Land-Grant Heritage statement offers two important reflections regarding the role of the arts and humanities in a land-grant university: on the one hand, they are part of cultural life that that is a necessary aspect of community life ("Iowa State University is a community where ideas are vigorously debated and rigorously tested, that understands the value of science and technology in today's world, and that appreciates the richness of human experience expressed through the arts and humanities."); on the other hand, the arts and humanities need to contribute synergistically to the tradition of strength at Iowa State ('Building on the University's tradition of strength in science and technology, and the synergy between these areas and the liberal arts and social sciences, Iowa State seeks to become even more distinguished in its teaching, research, and outreach efforts.'). With regard to Learning, the Mission Statement of Iowa State demands "A common goal of undergraduate education is to assure that all students, regardless of disciplinary major, acquire literacy in science and technology, an understanding of humane and ethical values, an awareness of the intellectual, historical, and artistic foundations of our culture, and a sensitivity to other cultures and to international concerns." The Center will focus the contributions of the arts and humanities to the land-grant mission of the University by creating an outlet of high visibility. This will also improve opportunities for external support through agencies, foundations, and private donors.

**b. How do they relate to the strategic plan of the department and/or university?**

The University's Strategic Plan for 2000-2005 expresses high expectations for the contribution of the arts and humanities to all strategic plan goals. In the intersection of Learning, Discovery, and Engagement, among the key characteristics are "Preserving and enhancing human and intellectual diversity consistent with our core values and culture" and "Encouraging and supporting interdisciplinary collaboration." Other important, University-wide characteristics include "Enhanced liberal education" (as part of Learning), "Creative activity" (as part of Discovery), and "Productive and responsive involvement in community improvement" (as part of Engagement). The efforts of the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities would enhance the learning, discovery, and engagement mission of Iowa State University, as described above. ISU's land-grant heritage, mission, and strategic plan ask for a substantial level of contribution from the arts and humanities.

**5. Do similar units exist at other public or private colleges or universities in Iowa? If so, how does the proposed unit relate to them?**

No Centers for Excellence in Arts and Humanities exist at any public or private colleges or universities in Iowa. Drake University has a Center for Humanities that does not include the Arts and which offers research support to Drake faculty, but does not have the scope of our Center. Whereas Drake's Center is focused solely on Drake faculty, the ISU Center will engage in outreach to the local community, Central Iowa, the entire state of Iowa and beyond. The University of Iowa's Oberman Center for Advanced Studies, and Grinnell College's Humanities Center both support interdisciplinary humanities but have little focus on the connections between the sciences and the arts and humanities, and do not have as their goal the exploration of the role arts and humanities play at a land grant university.

**6. What are the proposed sources and annual amounts of funding for the unit? Please itemize. (Include faculty, staff, and clerical salaries; supplies; equipment; travel; other costs)**

The Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities receives its initial three-year core funding from units across the University: Office of the President (\$20,000 p/a), Office of the Provost (\$20,000 p/a), Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies (\$20,000 p/a), College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (\$20,000 p/a), College of Design (\$10,000 p/a), and College of Education (\$10,000 p/a). Start-up costs of about \$10,000 are provided in FY03 by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies.

<u>Budgetary Item</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Annual Amount</u>
Director salary	Funding pool	\$25,000
Program assistant salary	Funding pool	\$25,000
Office expenses	Funding pool	\$5,000
Programmatic issues	Funding pool	\$45,000
Internal grants program	General fund	\$100,000

**7. Which of the costs in item 6 represent new financial obligations to the general fund of the university?**

The first four items represent new obligations, covered by six units across campus. The internal grants program has been in existence for four years; funding for its administration will be shifted to the new Center from the Vice Provost for Research and Advanced Studies.