

NEXT STEPS in the REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AT CORNELL

Following completion of the self-study, receipt of the report of the external review committee, and a period of invited comment on the report, the next step in Cornell's review of the social sciences will be to address the central issues raised in the process to date.

Committees will be formed to address:

1. **Organizational Structures:** university level organization of the social sciences, including academic units and centers/institutes
2. **Idea Panels:** explore areas of strength and opportunity for radical collaboration in the social sciences
3. **Administrative Issues:** specific concerns regarding current policies and practices that impact faculty productivity

In August 2017, the goals for these committees were discussed with the relevant college deans and nominations for the first two were requested.

Detailed information about each committee follows:

1. Committee on Organizational Structures

Charge: Develop concrete models of potential organizational structures for the social sciences that might be put in place at Cornell. The committee is encouraged to be expansive, to think at a high level, to consider academic units (colleges, schools, departments, graduate fields) and centers/institutes, to investigate unconventional structures, and should not be constrained by obstacles that may be apparent currently. The goal is to identify organizational structures that would best position Cornell for excellence in 10-15 years by addressing the fundamental concern that Cornell's social sciences are less than the sum of the parts and identifying ways to better connect faculty, to better provide faculty with the support that they need, and to improve our external visibility and recruiting power.

Guidance:

1. Proposed changes in organization should not require significant net expansion of the number of faculty in the social sciences. Any recommendation should, in implementation, be zero sum, i.e. if new structures are proposed, each would need to derive largely from existing units or be generated by redistribution of resources.
2. Feasibility is a secondary rather than a primary consideration for the group. In other words, the committee is encouraged to think big and try not to get tripped up with implementation details.

October 16, 2017

3. The committee should consider the broad impacts of different organizational structures, including, for instance, how different organizational structures position us for success in recruiting faculty and students, external funding, and international scholarship.
4. Graduate education in the social sciences was a topic of interest in both reports. While the committee should feel welcome to consider the overall structure of graduate fields within the social sciences, other concerns about graduate education will be addressed separately.

Membership:

Co-Chairs: Judy Appleton and Ted O'Donoghue

Members: Marya Besharov, Peter Enns, Filiz Garip, Lee Humphreys, Katherine Kinzler, Stacey Langwick, Aija Leiponen, Lori Leonard, David Matteson, Karl Pillemer, Chris Wildeman

Timeline: Begin work in September 2017. Provide a report to the Provost in January 2018 that details several concrete models. During the spring semester, the Provost will facilitate discussion of options with the faculty.

2. Committee on Idea Panels

Charge: Organize a series of panels over the course of the academic year designed to identify possible areas for radical collaborations within the social sciences as well as radical collaborations that connect the social sciences with other broad disciplines (i.e., physical and life sciences, humanities, technology, and medicine). While some of these panels might focus on specific research and scholarly concentrations that have already started to emerge at Cornell, some of these panels should focus on broader topics such as where the social sciences are headed over the next decade or what are some of the most important problems in the world for which the social sciences might provide important solutions.

Guidance:

1. All panels should aim primarily to provoke discussion, and, as such, opening comments from panel members should be brief.
2. An important discussion point is whether we should recognize and enhance current strengths vs. expanding into new and emerging areas.
3. The slate of panels developed will be shared with the social science deans for review prior to inviting the panelists and launching the panels.

October 16, 2017

Membership:

Co-Chairs: Valerie Hans and Dan Lichter

Members: Ben Cornwell, David Easley, Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, Shannon Gleeson, Lillian Lee, Steve Osofsky, David Pizarro, Lucinda Ramberg, Monika Safford

Timeline: Begin work in October 2017. Three to six panels to be presented over the course of AY2017-18, with a final summary report and recommendations to the Provost in June 2018.

3. Committee on Administrative Issues:

Charge: Upon completion of the report on Organizational Structures, a committee will be formed to address concerns that were raised about varied number of policies and practices that impact faculty scholarship and productivity, including but not limited to: teaching loads and course buyout practices, resources for cross-campus graduate programs, racial and ethnic diversity in the faculty, grant support (incentives, pre- and post- award support, expectations for IDCs), cost of RAs on grants, need for post-docs, need to facilitate international research and scholarship. The committee will have the freedom to prioritize the issues they address.

Membership: A mixture of administrators, faculty and staff, including some department chairs/associate deans, college business officers, university research officers, and faculty from colleges with different policies.

Timeline: Begin work in Spring 2018. Submit a progress report to the Provost in May 2018 and a final report in January 2019.