BOARD OF REGENTS
PRELIMINARY BPR TEAM REPORT

BPR TEAM: College of Humanities and Fine Arts (CHFA)

CHAIR: Dr. Ted Brown, Dean

TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE: Alternating Fridays, 2:30-4:30

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS REVIEWED: 20 (see discussion below)

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY TO THIS POINT:

Program Review: After first discussing our goals and possible means of reaching them, the team spent two meetings developing the attached scoring rubric, which was used to review all undergraduate majors and graduate programs in the college. Following extensive discussion about the difficulty of separating out courses that counted in more than one track as well as in minors, the committee decided to evaluate programs by CIP codes rather than separate majors, and even considered combined CIP codes in several instances. Thus, although the program count for official review was 20, that is a composite number including many more areas, majors, and minors within the college. Reviews were based on extensive data regarding enrollment and graduation numbers, faculty loads, and program costs, as well as on departmental documents discussing more-subjective areas such as Essentiality, Quality, and Opportunity. Reviews were conducted on a 3-point scale, with 3 meaning high quality and high productivity, 2 meaning high quality and modest size/productivity, and 1 meaning that the program was of dubious quality and value to the institution.

Efficiency Review: The team spent its final two meetings learning about and then carefully examining both the collegiate and departmental budgets in order to identify the area(s) from which the necessary budget reductions occasioned by the institution's current financial plight must come. After extensive and sometimes spirited discussion, the group agreed that those cuts should come through restructuring some faculty workloads so as to reduce the number of courses taught by adjuncts and paid for by the college, while also increasing the number of offerings from full-time faculty members. We hope that those reductions will be as minimal as possible, especially in light of the facts that this college bears responsibility for staffing three of the four universally required University Studies course offerings and also subsidizes the Honors Program (e.g., this semester 13 of the 15 on-campus Honors seminars are being taught by CHFA faculty, as well as 5 sections of Honors Composition, ENG 150).

A Final Note: This was not always an easy process, but it was a valuable and educational one for all committee members involved. I wish to express my deep appreciation to President Dunn and to you, the members of the Board, for allowing the people most directly involved and affected by any pending reductions to have a strong voice in determining the source of those reductions. I am very proud of the good and hard work done by our college BPR Team, and I believe that this budget review offers a perfect example of shared governance in the very best sense of that term. Again, thank you all, and please let me know if you would like any further information.