The School of Liberal Arts 2013 Strategic Plan

Mission
The mission of the School of Liberal Arts is to nurture and promote innovative scholarship, transformative research, and creative inquiry within the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Based on a distinctive vision comprised of our interdisciplinary approach, dedication to place-based creativity, and commitment to service learning, the school provides students with an outstanding education founded on close working relationships with distinguished faculty. In our belief in interdisciplinary inquiry, our faculty members reach beyond traditional academic boundaries; in our dedication to place-based learning, we engage with New Orleans and the greater Gulf region; in our pursuit of social innovation, we foster a life-long enthusiasm for service to the community and the world.

Distinctive Competencies
As a liberal arts school, we are committed to the shared values of the liberal arts. Our students have a strong grounding in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. By learning to write, communicate, and analyze, they develop skills in research and inquiry that prepare them for future challenges and opportunities. Our faculty members are leaders in their respective fields and take that knowledge and enthusiasm into the classroom.

At the same time, we also believe that the School of Liberal Arts at Tulane has a distinctive vision dictated by three important factors:

1. Place: We are uniquely situated in New Orleans and the Gulf South, and serve as a gateway to Latin America.
2. Approach: Beyond segregated departments and programs, we are committed to integrated discovery through cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches that lead to innovative teaching and research.
3. Mission: We are dedicated to academic public service and social innovation that enriches the education of our students, the research of our faculty, and the quality of life in our community.

Emerging Strengths

Based on the current and emerging strengths across departments, programs, and centers in teaching, research, and service, as well as student interest, the School of Liberal Arts has selected four multi- and interdisciplinary themes for particular focus in the next decade. While supporting faculty, programs, and centers throughout the school, we envision that with planning, fundraising, and resource allocation, SLA will continue to be, or will become, a leader in the following four areas:
• Digital Arts and Humanities
• Gulf South Culture
• Global Latin America
• Crises and Innovations

Priorities and Initiatives

Priority 1 - Develop Thematic Area: Digital Arts and Humanities

Initiatives:
- Consolidate and enhance various offerings throughout the school in film production.
- Hire one additional permanent faculty member in a joint position with Digital Media Production to insure program coverage, coordination, community outreach, grants, and service learning.
- Support the acquisition and continued upkeep of equipment for digital media technology in the areas of Art, Theatre, Music, Communication, and Digital Media Production.
- Turn the visitor in Music Science and Technology into a PoP.
- Explore expanding the minor in Music Science and Technology into a major with the hiring of an additional tenure track faculty based on student and faculty interest.
- Provide additional graduate fellowships in Music Science and Technology.
- Assist in securing resources to support the MediaNola project.
- Develop the Digital Humanities certificate for graduate students throughout SLA.
- Support and encourage grant writing for all areas of digital arts and humanities.
- Work with SSE on the new computer science program to incorporate digital media in the arts and humanities.
- Work with Newcomb Art Gallery for programming and engagement with the topics, processes, and innovations in digital media.

Priority 2 - Develop Thematic Area: Gulf South Culture

Initiatives:
- Provide resources through grants and fundraising to continue the Music Rising project.
- Expand service learning courses that focus on Gulf South Culture.
- Add faculty members in areas that are integral to the teaching and research of this theme.
- Host conferences, performances, and exhibitions on the music, art, and culture of the Gulf South.
- Explore establishing a colloquium series on New Orleans as a Global City.
- Establish a visiting artist program.
- Support an interdisciplinary graduate conference on the Global Gulf.
- Provide dissertation fellowships on topics focused on the Gulf South.
- Renovate Dixon Hall as a focus of performing arts in New Orleans.
Priority 3 - Develop Thematic Area: Global Latin America

Initiatives:

• Maintain faculty strength across departments and programs.
• Support the integration of MARI into academic programming throughout the School.
• Explore adding a faculty member in a less commonly taught language.
• Fund a visiting artist in language, literature, or music.
• Create professorships or endowed chairs in areas integral to Global Latin America.
• Add graduate stipends and fellowships in thematic areas.

Priority 4 - Develop Thematic Area: Crises and Innovations

Initiatives:

• Support critical research and teaching in: environment; education; health; crime; poverty; discrimination. Encourage departments and programs to seek joint hires around these cluster areas.
• Award professorships to outstanding faculty working in areas of social innovation.
• Set specific goals, especially in the social sciences, for grants that would support research, graduate support, and administrative assistance. Assist faculty members in applying and obtaining such grants.
• Develop a multidisciplinary forum on post-disaster recovery that brings together the research taking place throughout the School.
• Sponsor visiting faculty and speakers on post disaster recovery.
• Support the development of courses throughout the school focused on natural and man-made disasters.
• Establish and support the New Orleans Research Alliance for Schools in Economics as a grant-driven center for research in the field.

Priority 5 - Expand and support the number, visibility and diversity of tenure-track faculty; decrease reliance upon adjuncts

Initiatives:

• Move approximately 15-20 visitors to tenure track searches based on the already-in-place adjunct challenge and possible SLA summer program revenues.
• Work to procure additional office space on uptown campus to permit faculty growth. This includes the renovation of Dixon and possible office expansion at the Navy ROTC building, university square and other new or renovated sites.
• Address salary compression among productive senior faculty.
• Provide adequate departmental staffing across the school.
• Expand the number of professorships and endowed chairs identified in thematic areas.
• Enrich the Center for Scholars through fundraising.
• Provide additional resources for faculty research, travel, and engagement with students.
• Provide supplemental support for unique service learning courses.
• Create a conference and travel funds for undergraduates.
• Continue to implement the SLA diversity plan
  Support searches that bring in a diverse candidate pools.
  Provide additional lines when minority candidates are identified in a search.
  Support student---faculty activities that support a diverse campus environment
  Continue to support the office of GLBT Student Life.

Priority 6 - Expand and support graduate education

Initiatives:
• Explore establishing the English PhD program in thematic areas.
• Develop underutilized areas of the HT library for graduate use and meetings.
• Create ABD dissertation completion fellowships in targeted areas.
• Provide stipends for unfunded or underfunded graduate programs in the arts.
• Expand the summer graduate support program to assist students in completing their degrees.
• Expand the annual grant writing workshop for graduate students to include ABDs and first- and second-year students.

Goals/Expected Outcomes
Impact and Goals:

• Creation or expansion of self-sustaining, grant-generating and donor-supported centers:
  New Orleans Center for the Gulf South
  Middle American Research Institute
  Center for the Digital Arts
  Center for Scholars
  New Orleans Research Alliance for Schools in Economics

• Facilities:
  Renovation and expansion of Dixon
  Graduate lounge/work/meeting space
  Unified space and equipment for Digital Media

• Faculty:
  15 new tenure track positions converted from visiting lines
  3 new PoPs: languages, music
  6 Endowed Chairs
  English
  Southern Jewish Experience
  Music Science & Technology
  Digital Media
Anthropology and/or Spanish
Holocaust
5 Professorships: 2 on Social Entrepreneurship; 3 on areas related to Gulf South Culture
Artists in Residence: Music, Digital media, English, languages
A more diverse faculty
Salaries compression has been addressed; salaries are more in line with national averages
Increased attention to obtaining grants provides school, departments, and faculty members with additional resources and recognition

• Continuation and support of innovative programming:
  Media Nola
  Music Rising
  Service learning courses

• Biennial conference support:
  Gulf South Culture
  Post–Disaster Recovery
  New Orleans as a Global City

• Graduate and undergraduate support:
  Possible establishment of the English PhD
  Dissertation and research support
  Expansion of the Digital Media Certificate
  Travel and research support for undergraduate