

Proposal from AAAS/CFA

Staci Perryman-Clark, Monique Haley, Rhea Olivacce

Brief Overview: Provide a brief overview of the proposed interdisciplinary initiative. What types of questions would the initiative ask? What types of complex problems would it seek to solve?

This proposal presents a collaboration between the College of Fine Arts (CFA) and the College of Arts and Sciences' (CAS) Institute for Intercultural and Anthropological Problems. It seeks to encourage cross-disciplinary and cross-college collaboration through the SRM as opposed to discouraging it.

Impacted units: What existing units, programs, and colleges would be involved in the proposed initiative? What other possibilities for collaboration across campus or in the broader community might exist now or in the future?

African American and African Studies, Dance and Theatre and the School of Music are the primary programs impacted.

Impact on teaching, learning and curricula: Describe the anticipated impact of the proposed initiative on teaching, learning, and curricula. How might this initiative help to grow enrollment, including reaching new audiences of learners through continuing education, dual enrollment, or professional certification? How will the proposed initiative positively impact the training of undergraduate and graduate students? How does it enhance our institutional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion?

The proposed initiative allows for a wider range and more flexible list of potential courses to count for the Major and Minor in African American and African Studies, Dance and Theatre. It also supports the development of rotating topics classes that explore the intersections of an array of disciplines as they related to African American and African Studies. We hope as the collaboration develops to include the School of Art and the School of Music in these curricular intersections. Given recent emphasis on social justice and #BlackLivesMatter, the program allows for enrollment growth for students interested in exploring a wide range of racial and ethnic relations, especially as connected to the lives of people of African descent.

Impact on research and creative activity: Describe the anticipated impact of the proposed initiative on research and creative activity. How will this initiative promote discovery and creative scholarship? How might it result in increased external funding?

Because the proposal is a cross-college collaboration, it allows for interdisciplinary research as it pertains each to scholarship and creative activities. It allows for faculty and students to make connections between research and performance, and theory and practice. It allows for faculty and students to explore the arts and humanities in relation to

discovery driven scholarship. Finally, the emphasis on social issues allows the units to focus fundraising efforts on increasing scholarship opportunities for African American and African Studies and related performance studies. To date, since African American and African Studies reinstated its funding cost center account this past January, we have already received two donations from donors to support in this area.

Efficiencies and/or cost savings: How might the proposed initiative contribute to increased efficiencies and/or cost savings, for example by reducing administrative positions (e.g., chairs/directors), sharing staff support services and/or by sharing facilities?

Because African American and African studies is housed in an institute (IIAS), it best uses the institute model, as defined by the Faculty Senate Policy on Centers and Institutes. To those ends, it allows faculty to build joint appointments (both primary and secondary) between IIAS and another unit. As opposed to relying on future hiring initiatives to build new programs, or to fill gaps in existing programs, the institute allows the University to share resources between departments. It also allows for cross-listing of courses across departments and colleges to limit and potentially eliminate gaps a primary or secondary department may need to fill.

Impact on course offerings and workload: At present, proposed initiatives will only be feasible and sustainable if they can be supported by existing resources, including instructional capacity, faculty and staff time, and facilities. Will the proposed initiative streamline existing course or program offerings? Could the initiative help create more equitable and sustainable workload for faculty, for example, by reducing the need to offer under-enrolled courses, reducing the frequency of course offerings or eliminating the need to teach some courses?

Due to cross-listing, faculty may maintain teaching loads as assigned by the faculty member's primary home unit. Service assignments may also include coordination and collaboration across colleges. Finally, the institute streamlines possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration for research, scholarship and creative activities by creating a community of scholars with common interests.

Additional information: What additional information would you like to provide in support of this proposal?

IIAS will also present a proposal acknowledging the CFA collaboration and other CAS opportunities