

A&S Strategic Planning for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) – Arts & Humanities Focus Group Meeting (1/18/2024)

Facilitated by: Anna Brickhouse, Ashon Crawley, and Mona Kasra

Present: 14 faculty participants representing various departments in the division

- I. Introduction of facilitators and faculty participants
- II. Comments on focus of today's session from Anna Brickhouse (with additions from Ashon Crawley and Mona Kasra) – Describing Dean Acampora's charge to engage in strategic planning for research, scholarship, and creative activity (RSCA) among A&S divisions. Referred to previous efforts of this nature (2019 report) and welcomed comments from participants on how to improve RSCA within A&H.
- III. Feedback from faculty
 - a. Desire for a more standard path toward having a graduate research assistant, or at least having more reliable research support. This could protect faculty from some of the administrative burden involved in the research/funding acquisition process.
 - b. Perception that having regular RSCA funds would help tremendously. Lack of funds currently impedes faculty from attending/presenting at conferences and/or engaging in RSCA outside of UVA (domestic and international)
 - c. Faculty expressed interest in additional support for grants in progress and the availability of more internal grant opportunities.
 - d. Lack of clarity described regarding what RSCA support is already available in A&S
 - e. Interest in an A&S professional development grant for faculty to explore new topics
 - f. Some feel that more financial support is needed for work within a specific discipline rather than interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary.
 - g. Opportunities for research leaves are valued, and protection of time to focus on RSCA rather than service when on leave
 - h. One faculty member emphasized the benefits of being in a cohort program that allows for mentorship, increased communication about funding, and meaningful opportunities to co-teach that have inspired their research
 - i. Shared desire expressed for transparency and equity in funding decisions
 - j. Strong interest in intentionally planned opportunities for A&S faculty to network with colleagues from other UVA schools, which would enhance interdisciplinary work
 - k. A glossary for research would be helpful and dedicated research staff liaisons
 - l. Many participants agreed on support needed to help promote completed works and translate their impact to larger audiences
 - m. Residency programs could enhance RSCA while increasing belonging and prestige
 - n. Concern over one-year cycle of annual review – many want to engage in serious, impactful RSCA that takes multiple years to complete but feel unable to do so
 - o. Developmental editors (on staff or funding for) might benefit faculty across A&S
 - p. More support wanted by some for faculty that are not U.S. citizens
 - q. If goal is to compare UVA with ivies and other R1s, interest expressed in investing similar amounts in faculty for their RSCA efforts
- IV. Closing – request to take survey coming out next month and attend town halls in Feb.