

February 27, 2024

Strategic Research Planning Initiative

Social Sciences Townhall



COLLEGE *and* GRADUATE SCHOOL
of ARTS & SCIENCES

Strategic Research Planning Initiative

The initiative will assess our strengths, benchmark our performance, and articulate a vision for what research excellence looks like in A&S, and will recommend specific actions to achieve it and measure progress over the next 5-7 years.

Expand the impact and size of our research footprint

Strategic Research Planning Initiative

Identification of...

- Focal areas for strategic investment
- Changes in practice and resources that enable success in research, scholarship and creative practices

Expand the impact and size of our research footprint

Expand the impact and size of A&S's research footprint

Broad engagement of faculty across divisions

- Faculty focus groups
- Survey to (a) determine areas of strength and opportunity and to (b) assess constraints
 - Townhall to discuss survey responses

How do we get there?

Expand the impact and size of A&S's research footprint

Survey...

- 619 A&S faculty invited to take survey
- 51.2% overall response rate
- 37.4% Social Sciences response rate
- Representative across the ranks

How do we get there?

Survey Results: Social Sciences

Resources: Social Sciences

Highest

Seed money for projects (2.81)

Summer funding (2.98)
Flexibility with teaching schedules (3.14)
Research/conference travel (3.19)
Graduate students/postdocs (3.64)

Lowest

Funds for publication fees (5.30)
Other* (6.05)

Collaboration/Communication: Social Sciences

Highest

Speaker series promoting research/collaboration (2.67)

Cohort, mentorship, or residency (2.83)
Promotion/communications of completed works (2.92)
Central information for internal funding opportunities (2.95)
Availability of interdisciplinary space (4.31)

Lowest

Communication about available data sets/equipment (4.95)
Other* (6.38)

Infrastructure: Social Sciences

Highest

Pre-award staff support (2.38)

Support for Administrative tasks (2.77)
Identifying grant/fellowship possibilities (3.16)
Increased post-award staff support (3.19)

Lowest

Assistance with hiring or purchasing (4.47)
Assistance compliance requirements (4.77)
Other* (6.34)

Equipment/Training: Social Sciences

Highest

Spaces for research (2.69)

Developmental editors (3.30)
Shared equipment (3.62)
Increased technical staff (3.62)

Lowest

Media support (3.85)
Funding for data sets (3.95)
Other* (6.05)

Focal Areas for Strategic Investment: Social Sciences

- Science & Technology Studies
- AI & Society
- Interdisciplinary Research