

**CASL Annual Update
from the CASL Dean
to CASL Faculty/Staff**

Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to share good news in this quick overview of a busy year in CASL. Later this month, you will find details posted elsewhere on this page.

Better Budget News

The CASL budget has begun to turn around:

- The campus added \$700,000 to our base budget in order to fully fund part-time instructional costs as they stood in June 2008.
- Because Fall 2008 enrollments have jumped in CASL, the campus promised up to \$198,000 in one-time funds to pay for sections we need to add this Fall and Winter.
- The University contributed almost \$250,000 toward retiring the CASL debt.
- Almost \$200,000 has been promised in one-time monies to update office computers and update computer laboratories.
- The Provost's office allocated \$36,100 of staff and faculty equity dollars to CASL during the current salary cycle, supplementing the \$220,000 added to base salaries during the faculty equity program of the prior two years.

Two changes made this good news possible: cost-cutting and improved budget accountability by the college and growth in CASL enrollments. Thank you for the part you played in making those changes happen.

Research Funding

Our quest for additional research support saw its first success with \$50,000 in one-time monies allocated to CASL for the coming year. Priorities will be to increase this year's professional development funding at the department level in 2008-09, to enhance the faculty research travel budget in response to rising airfares, and to promote research by associate professors.

Other Accomplishments

In a historic moment, after almost a decade of planning, this year saw the emergence of two new departments, Language, Culture and Communications (LCC) and Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts (LPA). Both departments retain the interdisciplinary nature of the former Department of Humanities, but more manageably so.

The emergence of the new departments made this an auspicious moment to strengthen the arts through the hire of musicologist and chorale director Richard Rischar in LPA, and documentary filmmaker-journalist James Gilmore in LCC. Next year's concerts and teaching by celebrated jazz pianist Kenn Cox, who will be a resident King-Chavez-Parks scholar with African and African American Studies, will underscore the renewed attention to the arts.

In another historic moment, the two Public Administration faculty specializing in nonprofit organizations and public service, Seth Hirshorn and Dale Thomson, moved to the Social Sciences Department from the School of Education to work alongside faculty teaching the Master of Public Policy. The MPA degree will become a CASL degree next year after we work our way through the course change and degree revision process.

CASL welcomed 8 new faculty members in Fall 2007, and hired 13 faculty members who will join us this Fall. We have successfully made the case for three new, centrally funded lines in CASL—the first centrally funded lines in four years. In addition, 18 other searches (12 for tenure-track faculty and 6 for lecturers) have been given a green light for the coming year. The certificate in Geographic Information Systems and a major in Social Studies to serve secondary education majors were approved this year, and other certificates and minors await final approval.

Departments and College-Wide Programs enriched campus life by organizing nearly 90 events and series for students, campus, and community, and CASL took the lead with the Schools of Management and Education to run the second year of Difficult Dialogues public forums.

Looking Ahead

After several very difficult years, the CASL budget is turning a corner. The work Robin Wagner has done in her first year as CASL's business manager has helped us make the case that the college has been under-funded, and we are now moving toward a more appropriate funding level for actual operations. I believe the coming year will move us even closer to that goal, and thus enable us to do more to support your passion--the work with students, the scholarship, and the engagement that define this college.

Best wishes for 2008-09,

Katie

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