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Arts and Technologies

University Re-Invention (URI) Report Draft

March 30, 2018

The Arts and Technologies Cluster is comprised of the following Disciplines and Programs including:

- Art education (K-12)
- Art History
- Communication and Media Studies
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Dance
- English
- Graphic Design
- History
- Integrated Arts (graduate program)
- Music
- Music Education (K-12)
- Philosophy
- Studio Arts
- Theatre Arts

The URI data suggested that two of the twelve programs are financially sustaining, while the other ten programs are not sustaining. While there is general agreement that the URI data is flawed, none of the programs in Arts and Technologies are robustly thriving.

This report describes our cluster goals as we find ways to work together to in a collaborative effort re-envision how we can bring life back into all of our programs so that we move toward a thriving sustainability for our programs.

The President's Five Overarching Goals

1. Movement to a flatter, integrated, cluster-based organizational structure and implementation four tools (problem-based first year seminar, themed Directions general education courses, capstone General Education course (INCO), and open laboratory experiences)
2. Retention and Persistence
3. Sustainability and Thriving financially, academically, and reputationally
4. Recruitment and Enrollment
5. Equipping our students to lead and thrive in the 21st century global economy

Arts and Technologies Goals: Our Goals support the Five Overarching Goals

1. Bring students together for interdisciplinary experiences by innovative curricular development, cluster project and cross cluster project collaboration, and special events such as summer conferences, camps, and cultural experiences. *This supports efforts of recruitment and enrollment as well as persistence and retention by developing innovative high impact learning experiences. Students will want to come to PSU, and stay here, if they are engaged in dynamic, interactive learning experiences.*
2. Reduce upper level low enrolled courses by merging and combining courses and creating alternate curricula across the cluster. *This supports our efforts to be financially sustainable and thriving by being thoughtful about we offer courses and examining where we can integrate upper level courses across the A&T curricula.*
3. Creating alternate applications/pathways when students need to change directions in their programs. *This supports persistence and retention efforts by providing opportunities for students to change their path when they need to, so instead of leaving PSU because they are not able to complete their program for individual reasons, they can take another pathway and still complete their education.*
4. Support the General Education program by creating themed pathways that will be beneficial to all PSU students in any major, developing a General Education capstone course(s), and supporting/evolving the First-Year Seminar course. *This supports the efforts toward a flatter organizational structure and implementation of the Four Tools by aligning the curricula to the needs of the new PSU mission and vision.*

Through URI, we learned that low enrolled upper level courses lose the university and programs money. So, we began our inquiry exploring how many low enrolled upper level courses we have had which negatively impacts our financial condition. Here is a short summary of the A&T cluster history of low enrolled courses from the last eight semesters. This excludes internships, independent studies, and individual enrollments. We can use this information as we discuss where and how we will collaborate moving forward.

Disciplines	Low Enrolled Upper Level Courses (under 10 students enrolled) for the last eight semesters
Art (data was not divided into subdisciplines)	153 courses-many of these courses are designed for low enrollments, so this number is inflated. The art discipline(s) should review and we will likely find this number reduced to about 25 (approx).
Computer Science and Information Technology	11 courses
Communication and Media Studies	14 courses
English	11 courses
History	11 courses
Integrated Arts (graduate)	N/A
Music Theatre Dance	N/A
Philosophy	6 courses

Based on this data, Arts and Technologies does not run a significant number of upper level courses with low enrollments. Some of the collaborations we list below may help to reduce these numbers as we share curricula, coordinate the development of shared Connections courses, develop cluster majors, and utilize graduate students to assist with summer programming and special projects designed to build relationships with students which will contribute to persistence and retention efforts.

During fall 2017, the Arts and Technologies cluster held three drop-in sessions for brainstorming new ideas that can support the cluster and address issues such as the low enrollment of upper level courses. This resulted in developing an excel spreadsheet containing 46 different ideas. The spreadsheet contains strategies, goals, anticipated outcomes, a timeline for each idea, and resources needed. Here is a summary of those ideas (see the excel spreadsheet attached).

Ideas for whole cluster collaboration:

- Design an A & T cluster major: Something like Experience Design. This would include the following two new cluster courses:
 - New INCO cluster course: Designing Gamified Experience
 - New TECO (or a CTDI) on Digital Citizenship and Web Literacy for Student Fact Checkers
- Design a suite of Tool Kit courses including content from each discipline in A&T.
- Identify and or Develop a themed set of Directions courses integrating all disciplines in A & T Cluster
 - New directions course: Literature and Medicine (SSDI), function as a recruiting tool for English major and minor as well as provide interdisciplinary perspective on healthcare with humanities, writing, and cultural analysis
 - Another revised INCO course from English, “Eating American Literature” that can bring together multiple disciplines and be part of a themed package of general education courses “Ecological Thought and Practice” as a cross cluster collaboration with TESD
- Expand Practicum in Production across the cluster (maybe have a cluster code instead of individual discipline codes?)
- Seek out a Community Sponsor for Production Studio
 - Produce videos and films as full productions like plays, concerts, and opera
 - Partner film club/media students with science students documenting field experiences
 - Document National History Day
- Build community among students through developing A&T directions courses
- Create a co-disciplinary lab for all of A&T students and introduction courses
- Develop A & T themed First-Year Seminar

- Develop Cluster minor in Media Mapping (maybe connect with Previously mentioned Experience Design Major)
- Do a cluster project involving all disciplines: Summer Arts Festival
- Cluster project: Starry, Starry Night utilizing undergraduate and graduate students and spring semester course work
- Identify and designate a suite of upper level cluster courses – these courses would be part of every major in A&T cluster. These might assist with low enrollments of upper level courses if they replace current low enrolled courses
- Organize an annual Arts & Technologies Conference
- Develop Arts & Technologies summer camps for high school students. Utilizing graduate students to assist and earn credit.
- Promote audio production minor (from MTD) across the cluster
- Promote tool kit course, Mastering the Digital Audio Workstation (MTD)
- Develop an Audio Production summer camp for teachers and high school students
- New BA in Music Tech, Business, Tourism, and Entrepreneurism-cross cluster degree

Ideas for specific program collaboration:

- Integrated Studies (art , music, theatre, education) – Design a new major: Community Arts Management (with courses we already have)
- History, English, Art: Design a new Digital Humanities course – Possibly a directions course
- Art and Theatre: Design a new course on Design Aesthetics that could be included in a new major (Design Experience)
- Collaboration with English, History, and Art to create a eras and movements historical context course
- CMS to partner with HHE cluster and maybe I&E cluster to develop at least a minor, Health Communication
- Film Club (maybe partner with other student organizations in A&T) – sponsor film festival
- Create 4+1 graduate degree in Integrated Arts with A&T majors
- Create 3+1 graduate program in English and Integrated Arts
- Theatre Education option (12 credits) with Integrated Arts and any undergraduate major in the A&T cluster
- BS CS/IT/EMTR – Add an advising perspective to CS2010, the entry point to the program about the discipline and its future development: this facilitates retention efforts
- BS CS/IT/EMTR – augment the lab assistant program to increase integration with the students: this builds connections with students and supports persistence
- BS CS/IT/EMTR – invite colleagues to give guest presentations: this will connect more students with more faculty
- BS CS/IT/EMTR – review and assess current 2+2 agreements with community colleges: this will facilitate recruitment and better prepared entering students