Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere

(15 October 2004)

The submission and signing of a proposal to initiate a Type I institute/center or notification to the FBOE of the establishment of a Type II or Type III institute/center constitutes a commitment by the university(ies) to ensure that the institute/center’s activities support the stated mission(s) and goals of the institution(s).

University of Florida
University Submitting Proposal

Type II
Type of Institute/Center

September 15, 2004
Proposed Implementation Date

Associated Discipline (2-digit CIP)

President
Date

Provost
Date

Vice President for Research
Date

Dean of College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Date
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>I/C Name:</strong></th>
<th>Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I/C Code:</strong></td>
<td>University: University of Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I/C Director:</strong></td>
<td>Discipline(s) (2-Digit CIPs):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I/C Address:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I/C Telephone:</strong></td>
<td>I/C E-Mail Address:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I/C SUNCOM:</strong></td>
<td>I/C Web Site Address:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>I/C FAX:</strong></td>
<td>Affiliated Universities:</td>
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### Mission and Areas of Focus

**Mission Statement:**
(No more than 120 words)

The mission of the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere is to provide a site for critical and collaborative discussions of the humanities, particularly across and beyond specializations, and to provide a location for outreach to society and the public sphere.

**Key Terms:**
- humanities
- public sphere
- collaborative research
- ethics
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<th>Fees for Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Positions</td>
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<td>(FTE in Personyears)</td>
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Proposal for the
Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere

Introduction:

This proposal is to establish the University of Florida Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, whose purpose is twofold: (1) to promote and enhance critical and collaborative research and discussion in the humanities, particularly across and beyond specializations, and (2) to provide a location for outreach to the community in which we live and teach.

The Center will be unique in the nation with its outreach to society and the public. Understanding our heritages, traditions and sense of values is critical to world relations and forms the core of the human condition. The Center will therefore be designed to include the intersection of the academy and public life.

Mission and Areas of Focus

The mission of the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere is to provide a site for critical and collaborative discussions of the humanities, particularly across and beyond specializations, and to provide a location for outreach to society and the public sphere.

Principal Program Activities

The Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere will sponsor faculty and graduate student research groups and conferences, interdisciplinary seminars for faculty and graduate students on critical topics of the day, visiting lectureships of scholars and writers, and outreach seminars and other activities in the public sphere.

Rationale for Type II Center Status

Many public and the major private universities have Humanities Centers that serve to foster interdisciplinary activity, circulate information, and provide resources to the university and the community at large. The Consortium of Humanities Centers, established in 1988, has a membership of more than 130 such centers, in the U.S. and abroad. The AAU’s Task Force on the Role and Status of the Humanities just published its report on Reinvigorating the Humanities: Enhancing Research and Education on Campus and Beyond. In addition to calling for proper recognition of the importance of the humanities to the major research university and for new support for the endeavors of the humanities, the Task Force recommended the creation of “flexible structures” within the University “for interaction and collaboration across humanities disciplines, and among the humanities and the social and natural sciences and the professional schools”; the expansion of funding and fundraising internally and externally; and the building of “partnerships” with educational and cultural organizations in the public sphere. The Executive Summary further suggests “that scholars and administrators explore ways to clarify and communicate the mission of the humanities, enhance
research and teaching, and further integrate the humanities into all scholarly pursuits of knowledge, regardless of the discipline.”

As the flagship university in this state, University of Florida should have a focal point for the intersection of the humanities and issues of current public concern. The formalization of the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere will be important in aiding the University to reach the goals stated by the AAU’s Task Force by

developing an organizing structure for advancing and promoting (a) disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and outreach in areas of the Humanities, and (b) collaborative research on the cultures of humankind that cross the traditional academic departmental boundaries;

enhancing the internationalization of the campus coupled with outreach to the community in interdisciplinary fields;

providing an organizing structure for seeking funding from philanthropic foundations for research, exchange programs, and graduate student studies in cross-disciplinary fields of the humanities; and

providing a focal point for attracting distinguished visitors, speakers, exchange scholars in fields relevant to UF research areas in the humanities and related fields of fine arts and societal studies.

Organization and Reporting Structure

The Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere will be led by a full-time Director, who will report to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. The Director will co-ordinate all activities of the Center and will be responsible for facilitating public oriented events and for managing national and international visitor programs in selected areas of activity. The Director will also be responsible for developing proposals to philanthropic foundations and identified agencies for supporting research and exchange proposals that fund the activities of the Center. The Director will operate and manage funds for aiding faculty and graduate student researchers engaged in activities sponsored by the Center, and will supervise an Associate Director (a half-time appointment), who will assist the Director in her/his duties.

A Faculty Advisory Committee will be appointed by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in consultation with the Director. The Advisory Committee will consist of scholars engaged in the mission of the Center and will advise the Director and the Executive Board on programs for the Center. A list of faculty members who have participated in activities during 2001-05 in the “nascent” Center for the Humanities is given in Appendix 1.

The Executive Board for the Center will consist of the Humanities Council. The Executive Board will meet annually with the Dean and the Vice President for Research and Provost to review annual activities, progress in fundraising, and plans for following years.

Facilities and Budgets:
The budgetary needs for the salaries and benefits for the full-time Director, a part-time Associate Director, and the Center Director’s Secretary will be funded by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Revenue earnings from the Bob and Margaret Rothman Endowment for the Center for the Humanities will fund the activities of the Center. Initial seed funds from the College have and will continue to provide assistance for the activities of the Center, including inviting distinguished scholars and visitors for both short and long term research activities with the Center. The Center will finance the full program by external awards from Foundations and Agencies and from enhanced earnings as the Endowment is supplemented by additional gifts. The Center will be housed in the to-be renovated Newell Hall and form a showcase on the first floor of Newell Hall with reception and display areas, and small- and medium-sized lecture rooms for both public lectures and research and cross-disciplinary seminars and lectures.

Appendix 1.

The colleges, departments, centers and institutes that have collaborated with the ‘nascent” Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere are:

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures, Center for African Studies, Center for Applied Philosophy and Ethics, Center for Children’s Literature, Center for European Studies, Department of Classics, Department of English, France Florida Research Institute, Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, Department of History, History of Science Society, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Department of Philosophy, Program in Linguistics, Paris Research Center, Institute for the Psychological Study of the Arts, Department of Religion, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research.

College of Fine Arts

School of Art and Art History

College of Medicine

Center for Spirituality and Health

UF International Center

Humanities Faculty Activities supported by CLAS and RGP funding for 2001-2005:

Nora Alter, Professor of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Conference on Beyond/After the Screen: The Vicissitudes of Film in the New Millennium.
Donald Ault, Professor of English, Conferences on Graphic Novel and on Underground Comics.
Aida Bamia, Professor of Arabic, and Todd Hasak-Lowy, Center for African Studies, Symposium on Representations of Urban Space.
Alvaro Bolanos, Associate Professor of Spanish, Conference on Hispanism, Hispanic Communities and U.S. Academia.

John Cech and Center for Children’s Literature, and Institute for Children and Families Studies, National Conference on Children, Culture and Violence.

Frederick Gregory and Stephen McKnight, Professors of History, Conference on Cultures of Science: Unifying Nature Past and Present.

David Hackett, Professor of Religion, Conference on New Directions in Religious Studies.

Karelisa Hartigan, Director of Greek Studies, Symposium on Voices in Public Performance

Galia Hatavo, Program in Linguistics, Symposium on Semitic Linguistics.

Bob Hatch, Professor of History, Conference on the Scientific Revolution.

Susan Hegeman, Associate Professor of English, Conference on America and Globalization.

Kirk Ludwig, Professor of Philosophy, Lecture Series on Self-Knowledge.

Bron Taylor, Hill Chair of Ethics, International Conference on Religion and Nature.

Dan Kaufmann, Department of Philosophy in collaboration with Center for Women’s Studies, Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period.

Sheryl Kroen, Associate Professor of History, Gender and the Eighteenth Century: An Interdisciplinary Symposium.

Robert Ray, Professor of English and Film and Media Studies, Colloquium on Film Scenes.

Carlos Rojas, Assistant Professor of African and Asian Languages ad Literatures, Symposium on Edward Yang and Modern Taiwan Cinema.

Mark Thurner, Professor of History, Conference on American Empire, A Forum of Our Times.

Maureen Turim, Professor of English and Film and Media Studies, Conferences on Non-Ending Avant Garde and on Cities of Women: The Filmic Portrayal of Urban Female Struggles.

Mary Watt, Assistant Professor of Italian, Conferences on Carnival/ Carnevale.

Julian Wolfreys, Professor of English, Conference on Rethinking Deconstruction.

Distinguished External Speakers:

John D’Arms, President of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Keith Baker, J. E. Wallace Sterling Professor of Humanities, Stanford University.

Jacques Derrida, Director of Ecole des Hautes Etudes de Sciences Sociales, Ecole Normale Superieure, and Professor of Philosophy and French Literature, University of California, Irvine.

Jerry Fodor, State of New Jersey Professor of Philosophy, Rutgers University.

Kirk Freudenburg, Professor of Classics, Ohio State University.

Sander Gilman, Director of Humanities Laboratory, University of Illinois Chicago.

Rita Gross, Professor Emeritus of Religion, University of Wisconsin.

Michael Hardt, Associate Professor of Literature, Duke University.

Rosemary Hennessy, Professor of English, University of Albany.

Frederic Jameson, William A. Lane, Jr., Professor of Comparative Literature and Professor of Romance Studies (French), Duke University.

Peggy Kamuf, Marion Frances Chevalier Professor of French and Comparative Literature, University of Southern California.

William Labov, Professor of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania.

J. Hillis Miller, UCI Distinguished Professor, University of California Irvine.

Tim Moore, Professor of Classics, University of Texas.
Douglas Olson, Professor of Classics, University of Minnesota.
Elaine Pagels, Professor of Religion, Princeton University.
Paul Julian Smith, Head, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Cambridge University.
Robert Weisbuch, President of Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Princeton.
Figure 1.

Organizational Chart for the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere
Projected Space Requirements (in square feet)

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<tr>
<th>Projected Space Required by Source</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Laboratory</th>
<th>Conference Rooms</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Construction</td>
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* Offices for Distinguished Visiting Scholars
** First Floor of to be renovated Newell Hall