

Western Studies Planning Cluster Summary Plan

Over the course of the semester the Western Studies Planning Cluster met in four bi-weekly meetings. The main focus of those meetings was to discuss and submit a series of concrete and conceptual proposals that will emphasize or focus the western and rural dimensions of our region. During the course of our preliminary discussions the committee informally examined the current resources on campus, the manner in which those resources may be articulated, and the implications of those new efforts for long-term success. The committee did not specifically address topics of resource reallocation or the new investment of resources to fulfill the proposals.

The proposals outlined below are not in any rank order of priority so as to not privilege one idea over another. These proposals, it is our understanding, will be seriously entertained as potential courses for directed change for the university (for further detail see attachments). We also sincerely hope that each proposal will generate synergy for discussions in the fall.

The University of Montana Rural Center and Rural Emphasis

³Perceiving Place:² (A niche program focusing on modes of site and installation sculpture).

The University of Montana Hospitality Program

The University of Montana Collections/Curatorial Archive

Undergraduate Graduate Apprenticeships in Art
The University of Montana Resource Center for Educational Studies and Leadership

Masters of Science, Health Administration

Bi-Annual Symposium about Western and Rural Issues (hosted by The O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West and a sponsoring department depending on topic)

Re-dedicate the University of Montana Press

Establishment of a computer based regional journal

Summer Institute of Western Studies for public school teachers

Attached are supplemental materials for some of the proposals that were submitted by committee participants. Others were mentioned in the context of the meetings. I would be willing to discuss each during the upcoming Academic Planning Council meeting. Thank you for your consideration on these matters.