Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dean’s Office

Mission
The mission of the dean and his staff is to support the work of the college in teaching and research and contribute service to the college, the university, the larger community served by WSU, and the advancement of higher education.

Program Development
During the past four years, the dean’s office concentrated support in four areas:

1) Initiation of new programs emerging from a demonstrated need and exhibiting potential for success. These are the Forensic Sciences BS, the Earth, Environmental, and Physical Sciences MS, and the Medieval and Renaissance Studies undergraduate certificate.

Program development in progress includes a new interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate in Asian studies, and accreditation for the computer science program.

2) Emphasis on interdisciplinary programs. This is reflected in the new programs listed above.

3) Strengthening of existing programs. This is reflected in two areas: A) the achievement of accreditation over the past four years in the Social Work MA and Clinical and Human Factors PhD in psychology, and B) progress in departmental data collection and analysis for assessment and organization of the LAS College assessment committee.

4) Growth of General Education through the Concurrent Enrollment Program and its concomitant Rising Star Scholarship program (for more information see Table of Contents, Section 5).

Contribution to General Education
Basic Skills courses were supported in FY ’06 by college funding for faculty to develop a standard syllabus, readings, and materials for Engl 101 and 102; to implement upgrades to the math lab for student use, and for technology upgrades to enable classrooms in which Comm 111 is taught to use CDs and Internet applications provided by the course text publishers.

Teaching: The dean teaches one geology course yearly. The associate deans and unclassified staff each teach at least one course in their respective fields each semester.

Faculty Support
The college funds, in part, faculty, unclassified professionals, and Advising Center staff for travel to present papers and attend workshops and other professional development meetings. At least four summer faculty fellowships are awarded yearly (upon application to a faculty committee) for faculty research, creative activity, and curriculum development. The Barrier Award recognizes outstanding teaching in the social sciences and humanities and is presented yearly at LAS commencement.
exercises. The Watkins Lecture Series brings highly accomplished researchers in the natural sciences to campus each year to speak to general and specific audiences and meet with LAS faculty. For more information on the Barrier Award and Watkins Lecture Series see Table of Contents, Section 7.

Starting in the fall of 2002, the college has conducted a New Faculty Workshop for all incoming LAS faculty on general education, faculty governance, and other common classroom/faculty topics. This is followed by another New Faculty Workshop held in the spring and devoted to starting a research agenda leading to tenure and promotion. In addition a workshop is held by the dean each spring for faculty who will stand for tenure or promotion in the following fall. In 2006, at faculty request, a workshop was devoted to questions associate professors had regarding promotion to full professor. New chairs are offered the opportunity to attend a new chairs workshop offered through the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences.

**Technology Support**

In 2003 the dean created the Director of Technology position for the college, in order to provide support for technological resources in teaching and research. This person plans for the timely updating of technology (approximately 100 new machines for faculty have been installed since 2003). A committee of departmental IT staff was formed to implement new products and college-wide procedures, as well as pedagogical and research strategies. Three computer labs were upgraded in the past three years. Nine new servers have been purchased providing a college-based IT infrastructure. The Social Science Research Lab and LAS Advising Center have benefited from infrastructure upgrades. Practical aspects of the director’s position include software and hardware consulting and upgrading for departments and individual faculty, departmental workflow and faculty backup strategies, and the integration of technology in research labs and in classrooms.

**Facilities**

During the past four years, extensive renovations to McKinley Hall were made and an Anthropology Museum within Neff Hall was constructed.

**External Funding**

The dean encourages the development of research funding, and on a regular basis, the college provides matches required for faculty grant proposals. The dean meets on a weekly basis with the college’s Director of Development and he actively participates in college fund raising activities. Over the past four years, endowed funds earmarked for the college have increased by approximately $10,000,000.

**Student Involvement**

While most student contact is carried out from the departments/schools, each fall the college hosts a breakfast for new students who have declared majors in the college. In addition, the dean attends regular lunches with individual scholarship recipients and their donor. In September 2006, the college will host its first luncheon reception for all
of its scholarship recipients and donors. For departmental and general college scholarship awards see Table of Contents, Section 6.

**Higher Education Organizational Affiliation**
The college holds membership in the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Council for the Arts and Sciences at Urban Universities.

**Staff Professional and Service Activities:**
- **Dean Bischoff** chaired the 2005 search for the Dean of Fine Arts. He is also Convener for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences at Urban Universities and in 2005-06 chairs the Metro/Urban Committee of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences. He is chair of the Wichita Area Technical College Board of Trustees and is a Trustee for KPTS, Channel 8.
- **Associate Dean Iorio** serves as the WSU Institutional Representative for the Office of Women in Higher Education and is a member of the Kansas OWHE Advisory Board. She made presentations at the CCAS annual meeting in 2003 and 2004.
- **Associate Dean Pickus** is chair of the search committee for the Director of the Ulrich Museum. He also is a current member of the Wichita Public Schools (USD 259) Budget Advisory Board and the Price-Harris Elementary School Communications Advisory Board. He is the meeting coordinator for CASUU.
- **Assistant Dean Lichti** is president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness—Kansas.
- **Assistant to the Dean for College Outreach Miller** serves in the Unclassified Professional Senate. She is Secretary of Wichita Professional Communicators, and Editor of *The Horned Lark* (the newsletter of the Kansas Ornithological Society).
- **Director of Information Technology Phillips** is a member of the university technology council. He coordinated WSU’s six-week residential Summer Puebla program in Mexico for nine years.
- **Accounting Specialist McCann** provides tutorials for new departmental assistants and fields questions regarding Banner changes for college personnel regarding scheduling and budget. He is also a notary public.
- **Senior Administrative Specialist Wyatt** is president of the Council of University Women. She provides mentoring for departmental scholarship coordinators and provides support for the College Curriculum Committee.