

Comparative History of Ideas (CHID) Interim Report Regarding 2016 Ten Year Review

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This Interim Report to the Graduate School fulfills one of two suggestions made by Graduate School Council to the CHID Program in its 1 Dec 2016, Summary Report of CHID's 2016 Program Review. The second Graduate School Council suggestion was that CHID either find a way to become a line bearing unit, or provide a strategic plan for how best to move the program forward.

“The Graduate School Council recommended that the program faculty review how resources are currently being used and whether consideration should be given to scaling back in particular program areas. If CHID does not achieve line-bearing status, the Council questioned what the faculty's strategic plan will be in moving the academic unit forward.”

It gives me great pleasure to report that CHID became a line bearing department on 1 July 2019 after an abbreviated Reorganization, Consolidation, and Elimination Procedure (RCEP) as required by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Robert Stacey (letter to Provost Gerald Baldasty, 29 April 2018). Since then, CHID has appointed seven new faculty, raising our total from 5 to a total of 12 faculty. It is important to note, however, that the size of CHID's faculty body is primarily meant to help with issues of governance. At 5.8 total FTE the number of FTEs is significantly lower than 12 as many of the new faculty are either partial or 0% appointees (see breakdown below).

This has not stopped the faculty or the department from making significant advances. Since the advent of departmentalization, the faculty have established regular meetings, initiated discussions on the role of faculty governance in the program, developed a statement on diversity and inclusion, and are now working on guidelines for promotion and tenure for the department. CHID faculty now provide a center for interdisciplinary expertise in the humanities at the UW. Core faculty now share appointments with Departments of History; Anthropology; American Ethnic Studies; the Jackson School; Cinema, Media, Studies; the Program on the Environment; English; and Mathematics and have even begun a cross-disciplinary seminar series for sharing research and teaching strategies. In addition, and as noted in the Graduate

School Council Report, becoming a line bearing unit has allowed CHID to make its own appointments, which has kept CHID from further burdening collaborating departments.

These changes have allowed CHID to continue its high standard for interdisciplinary research and teaching. For instance, two CHID faculty won Undergraduate Research Mentor awards (only a total of five were given to all professors across the university). The melding of research and education has also proven exceptionally popular with undergraduates. CHID has grown a remarkable 25% in declared majors each of the past two years. We are now the second largest major in the Humanities and are working hard to continue this growth through cutting-edge outreach programs, such as one recently initiated to attract students from two-year colleges.

In short, the added stability of becoming a department has allowed CHID to thrive and grow at a time that has been especially challenging for other academic units. CHID wishes to thank the members of the Graduate School Council for its role in facilitating this growth.

Faculty Member	CHID affiliation after departmentalization
Assoc. Prof. Jayadev Athreya	100% Math, 0% CHID
Assoc. Prof. Caroline Chung Simpson	100% CHID
Assoc. Prof. María Elena García	100% CHID
Prof. Gary Handwerk	50% CHID, 50% CMS
Prof. Daniel Hoffman	0% CHID, JSIS and ANTHRO
Assoc. Prof. José Antonio Lucero	30% CHID, JSIS
Christian Lee Novetzke	0% CHID, JSIS
Assoc. Prof. Chandan Reddy	50% CHID, GWSS
Assoc. Prof. Sonnet Retman	0% CHID, AES
Assoc. Prof. Stephanie Smallwood	0% CHID, HIST
Prin. Lect. Anu Taranath	50% CHID, 50% English
Prof, Phillip Thurtle	100% CHID, HIST
Total FTEs	5.8