

Summer CRC Meeting

Time: 2-3 PM

Date: 8/23/21

Zoom: <https://ccny.zoom.us/j/88317031764>

Present: Associate Professor Aguasaco, Dean Gutman, CRC Chair Kretzschmar, Associate Dean Lima, Dean Miller, Professor O'Brien, Dean Perkins, Dean Rich, Chair Silber, Professor Stylianou, Associate Dean Wesson, Senior Director Wooten

Agenda for Monday

1. Presentation by Tessa Green, MFA (~15-20 min and 15-20 Q&A) Executive Director Bridging Barriers Research Grand Challenges and Research Development Strategist The University of Texas at Austin | Office of the Vice President for Research Check out the program that Tessa is running at: <https://bridgingbarriers.utexas.edu>
2. Review & discussion of CRC goals as stated in the strategic plan 2019 (see attached CRC Meeting #7.pdf)
 - a. Set priorities for Fall 2021
3. Dean Miller and Dean Rich's proposal for book completion support.
4. How to communicate CRC recommendations back to respective department?
 - a. Who is reporting from the CRC back to the divisions/schools?

Minutes

1. Guest speaker Tessa Green presented on the "Bridging Barriers" Grand Challenge initiative at UT Austin. Ms. Green gave an overview of the project and commented on some of the successes and difficulties in implementation.
 - a. The program provides \$10 million per grand challenge over 8-10 years.
 - i. Grand Challenge funding is sourced from the provost's office, with administrative costs coming from another source.
 - ii. The program is slated to conclude in August 2027 and is not meant to be permanent.
 - b. After an initial call for project ideas, proposals were sorted into six categories based on similarity; six proposals were ultimately submitted, three were chosen for full funding, and three were given smaller amounts of funding.
 - i. Proposed projects were required to be centered around the local region.
 - c. Program Successes:
 - i. The initiative was successful in bringing together administrators, faculty, and students in cross-disciplinary collaboration.
 - ii. Faculty were also encouraged by the project to pursue new funding opportunities, ultimately bringing in \$40 million in funding to date.
 - iii. The research projects helped build relationships with the local community.
 - d. Program Challenges:
 - i. For the two Grand Challenge projects that started with a broader scope, some participants eventually self-selected out of the project.

- ii. There was some difficulty in attracting those in the Humanities and Social Sciences to the project.
 2. There was discussion on the content of the presentation and elements that could be adapted to a similar initiative at CCNY.
 - a. There was discussion about requiring projects to be NY/NYC focused, there seemed to be general interest in/support for this idea.
 - b. There was discussion about the intended goal of the program at CCNY.
 - i. It was generally decided that pursuing NSF funding should not be the goal, as it's not inclusive to all disciplines.
 - ii. It was noted that the program should be framed in a way to allow humanists to see their questions as potential drivers for the projects.
 - c. It was generally agreed that the CRC should put out a call for ideas, sort through proposals, and get people together to discuss their ideas.
 3. There was brief discussion on the topic of fall CRC meetings, including meeting frequency and CRC composition.
 - a. It was generally agreed that the CRC would check in with the faculty senate to report on summer progress and hear feedback on group constituency.

Future Meetings:

1. Discuss fall goals and organization
2. Discuss the book proposal
3. Discuss solicitation of grand challenges, put something out to faculty