

A Case Study: Creating a Culture of Collaboration

Elizabeth Dupuis, Cynthia Schrager & Victoria Robinson
University of California, Berkeley

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Session Overview

- Overview of Mellon Fellowship Initiative
- Highlights of Campus Context
- Highlights of Collaboration
 - Case Study: American Cultures
 - Case Study: University Library
- Outcomes and Benefits
- Long-term Challenges



Initiative Overview

- Mellon Library/Faculty Fellowship for Undergraduate Research (2002-2007)
- Three campus administrators as co-PIs
- Six academic units as collaborative partners
- Focus on redesign of courses and assignments to incorporate research-based learning
- Year-long collaborations between faculty and staff of campus academic support units



Initiative Objectives

- Strengthen a community of faculty and academic partners committed to undergraduate research and able to serve as change agents in the academy
- Energize and redesign large enrollment and high impact courses across disciplines, and create a model for sustaining changes in courses and curricula
- Enable undergraduate students to develop their information literacy and research skills, including use and appreciation of libraries and library collections, throughout their academic careers



UC Berkeley Campus Context

- Research and graduate program pre-eminence
- Strong faculty governance
- Autonomous academic departments, schools and colleges; curricular decentralization
- Organizational “silos”
- Fragmentation of academic support
- Instructor-entrepreneurs and RFP culture
- Innovation driven by individuals



UC Berkeley Context of Change

- Creation of Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education within campus administration
- *Campus Strategic Academic Plan* with research-based learning as key feature
- *Campus Accreditation Educational Effectiveness Self-Study* engaged campus community in creating vision for enhancing undergraduate education

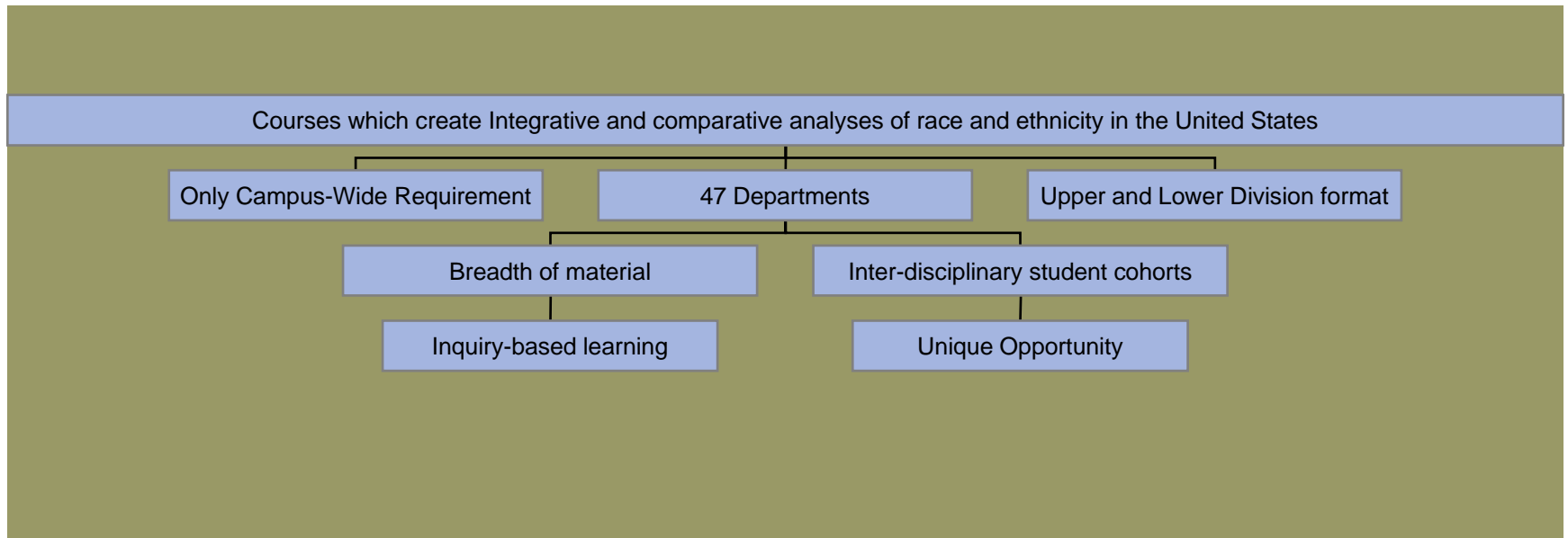


Initiative Infrastructure

- Principal Investigators:
 - Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
 - University Librarian
 - Dean, Undergraduate Division, Letters & Science
- Steering Committee:
 - American Cultures Center
 - Division of Undergraduate Education
 - Educational Technology Services
 - Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center
 - Office of Educational Development
 - University Library

Case Study: American Cultures

Roadmap of American Cultures Possibilities and Challenges





Case Study: American Cultures

Motivation:

- Create a new and improved Summer Seminar
- Develop A.C. pedagogy
- Build academic partnerships
- Facilitate peer-to-peer conversation
- Create department conversation and buy-in
- Embed A.C. at lower-division undergraduate level



Case Study: American Cultures

Insights about impact:

- Peer-to-peer contact is valuable in fostering a faculty-driven ‘culture of change’
- Academic partner infrastructures are solidified through common projects
- Students respond to ‘scaffold learning environments’
- Faculty respond to innovative and exciting connections between research and teaching



Case Study: University Library

Motivation:

- Enhance traditional collections-centered role with a teaching and learning-centered role
- Recognize expertise of other campus units
- Enrich undergraduates' knowledge of research processes and use of library resources
- Cultivate the habits of mind of successful learners and scholars.



Case Study: University Library

Key changes:

- Librarians contribute to the design of assignments that incorporate research-based learning in advance of the semester the course is taught
- Students can be connected to and supported by the Library in more meaningful and sustainable ways
- The Library is more closely integrated with campus initiatives and better serves academic programs and individual faculty



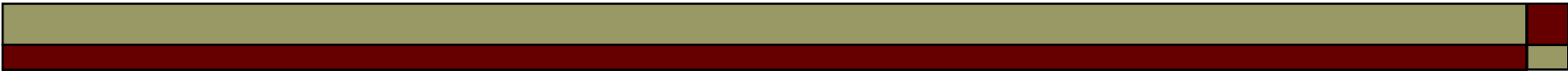
Collaborative Models

- Meetings with department chairs to identify key courses and faculty
- Implementation Teams created for each faculty with staff from various academic support units
- Semi-annual Salons to encourage ongoing conversations and collaborations across departments
- Innovation Funds to encourage teaching innovations and promote sustainability



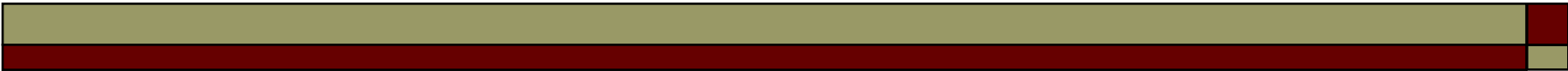
Outcomes and Benefits

- Ongoing collaboration between academic partners
 - Council of Academic Partners
 - Campus-wide symposia focused on teaching and learning
- Institutionalization of positions and curricula
 - Associate University Librarian for Educational Initiatives
 - AC embedded in lower division and across campus
- Support for community of faculty as change agents
 - New Faculty Orientation
 - American Cultures Spotlight Series
 - Sociology 3AC, dept. conversations, and AC community



“[The Fellowship] had a big effect on the way I design courses for undergrads...building all sorts of mechanisms into the way I teach, and the way my [Graduate Student Instructors] teach, to develop skills of critical thinking with research being one big component of that...”

Ingrid Seyer-Ochi, Asst. Professor of Education



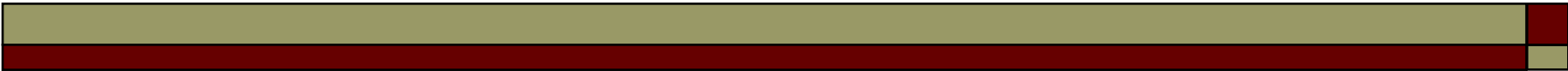
“The way that course was undertaken...shapes the way I perceive American history now...I now approach [ideas] in a very analytical way and I would feel compelled to research beneath and beyond what I am being given, what I am being told.”

Joseph Scalice, UC Berkeley undergraduate



Long-term Challenges

- Designing effective organizational structures for academic support and collaboration
- Developing institutional resources to support further course and curriculum changes beyond the grant
- Sustaining course innovations and collaborations with inevitable personnel changes



“We need scholars who not only skillfully explore the frontiers of knowledge, but also integrate ideas, connect thought to action, and inspire students.”

Ernest Boyer, Scholarship Reconsidered

“Effective, collaborative models of academic support on leading campuses urgently need to be developed and explored from a variety of perspectives...”

Mellon Foundation, “Models of Academic Support”



For Further Information

Mellon Fellowship for Undergraduate Research

www.lib.berkeley.edu/mellon/

edupuis@library.berkeley.edu

schrager@berkeley.edu

victoriarobbi@berkeley.edu