

**NEH Humanities Grant Ad-Hoc Committee**  
**Annual Report to Faculty Senate and Request for Renewal of Ad-Hoc Status**  
**1 May 2015**

Since 2013, the Committee managing the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Humanities Grant has operated under annual ad-hoc status from the GBC Faculty Senate. We are currently completing the second year of a 5-year challenge grant. We present this report of our activities for the 2014-2015 academic year and a request for continued status as an ad-hoc committee of GBC Faculty Senate.

**Summary of 2014-2015 Activities**

Committee activities this year have focused predominantly on implementing the Humanities Toolkit and HUM 111 humanities gateway course sections of the grant and developing and bringing on-line the Virtual Humanities Center.

1. The Virtual Humanities Center (VHC), an online portal for humanities content comprising a website ([humanities.gbcnv.edu](http://humanities.gbcnv.edu)) and searchable database for digital content, has been brought live and is currently operating.
2. The basis of a Humanities Toolkit to provide resources for instructors to incorporate humanities-oriented materials into courses has been constructed using materials from GBC instructors. A faculty in-service workshop was held for this material in August 2014.
3. HUM 111, a survey-level humanities “gateway” course, was offered for the first time in Fall 2014 and again in Spring 2015. The Committee is currently evaluating the course, and the Arts and Letters Department has agreed to offer the course next year.
4. Ongoing discussions were held with faculty over the integration of humanities-oriented lessons continued, included a faculty in-service workshop in January 2015.
5. Fund-raising for the endowment fund continued. The Committee has currently secured over \$600,000 of an obligated \$1 million in matching funds for the grant. This exceeds our three-year fundraising goal in our second year; we are ahead of schedule. When the endowment fund hits maturity in 2018, returns will provide funding for the VHC.
6. The VHC has begun ingesting locally-generated content into the VHC searchable database, including items from a range of local communities and publications such as:
  - The *Argentum* collection from 2010 through 2015.
  - *Tortoise Talk*, the GBC Biology Club student journal.
  - GBC Cowboy Gathering Speakers talks from Temple Grandin, Teresa Jordan, and Gary Nabhan. GBC faculty are using some of these talks already in course work.
  - Interview with Beth Fine, author of *The Last U.S. Mail Stage Robbery*, and directors Erika Patrick and Frank Sawyer of Silver Stage Players. The Jarbidge-set play was recognized as a Nevada 150 Commission Sesquicentennial Signature Event.
  - GBC Founders’ Oral Histories capturing GBC’s early history.
  - Great Basin Indian Archive (GBIA) Oral Histories and transcripts, searchable in both English and Shoshone.

- Currently supporting local Basque oral history collection in association with the international Memoria Bizia project in coordination with UNR, the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain), and other institutions.
7. Organized the Richter-Uzer live stream event for high school students across GBC's service area using the MediaSite system. This was a test for the possibility of broadcasting humanities-oriented content leveraging GBC's existing distance-delivery capabilities. Despite the relatively quick set-up, seven non-Elko locations streamed the event, demonstrating the capability of the system.
  8. Held a workshop with local community partners (the Northeast Nevada Museum, the Western Folklife Center, and the California Trail Center) in March to discuss future plans for possible collaborative projects between GBC and these institutions to share content and resources.
  9. Sponsored a Webinar Marketing Workshop led by Dr. Meggin McIntosh for GBC faculty and community partners throughout the GBC service area for developing marketing strategies for programs and events.
  10. Acquired cameras, audio equipment, and digital processing equipment to allow future faculty and community humanities projects. The Committee is currently developing check-out procedures and training items for this equipment, with the idea of holding future faculty in-service projects.
  11. Planning began for additional lecture-capture rooms and capability for GBC, including the acquisition of a Tri-Caster portable lecture-capture system and a potential two additional lecture-capture classrooms. Funding was built into the original NEH grant for this technology.

### **ACTION REQUESTED: Renewal of Ad-Hoc Committee Status for 2015-2016**

The NEH Humanities Grant is a five-year challenge grant, and we are currently completing the second year of the grant. The Committee requests that the GBC Faculty Senate renew the Committee's ad hoc status for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Planned activities for 2015-2016 currently include:

1. Coordination of activities within a two-year theme: "Design for the Human Spirit," unveiled to the college at the Spring 2015 Welcome Back in January 2015.
2. Planned faculty workshop activities centered on integrating humanities content in the design of classes, research, or community-oriented projects.
3. Continued development of the VHC, including more user-friendly interfaces and enhanced search capabilities as well as content development.
4. Building partnerships with both GBC components such as the Great Basin Indian Archive, community organizations such as the museums, and other academic institutions.
5. Acquisition and installation of additional lecture-capture capability.
6. Continued endowment fundraising to complete matching the NEH Challenge Grant.