

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

FY22 Annual Report

I. Accomplishments and Productivity for FY22

A. Specifics for CAS Annual Report

- HIS awarded \$14,750 in one-time recruitment scholarships to admitted students from underrepresented groups and first generation in college students. This contributed to our ongoing success in enhancing the diversity of our majors, as the number of students from underrepresented groups in our programs increased from 65 in Fall 2017 to 89 in Fall 2021 (18% of the major).
- HIS awarded \$5,000 in one-time retention scholarships to freshmen who are first generation in college. We expect this program to contribute to the continuing improvement in our retention rate, which has improved from 73% in Fall 2017 to 89% in Fall 2020.
- HIS Department enrollment increased for the seventh consecutive year, rising from 462 in Fall 2020 to 493 in Fall 2021.
- Despite the challenges of a snow storm and the on-going pandemic, HIS successfully co-hosted the History-Social Sciences Education Symposium both in-person and on-line, with over 200 attendees from around the state. This is a major achievement in community engagement as it involves high school teachers, the Regional Office of Education, and the McLean County Museum of History.

B. Goals in FY22

- Recruit new faculty in the History of Science and in the History of 19th-century Europe (ECE I, II, III).
- Re-organize and upgrade AP positions for Advisor and for Student Teacher Coordinator (ECE I, II, III).
- Support Faculty Research (ECE I, II).
- Decide how to implement FCR on-line graduate courses (ECE I, II).
- Continue systematic review of the curriculum (ECE I, II, III).
- Continue recruitment scholarships and initiate retention scholarships (ECE I, III).
- Rebuild internship opportunities in the wake of COVID (ECE I, IV).

C. Accomplishments Related to Academic Program Development

We successfully recruited two new TT faculty members in the areas noted above. The hire in the History of Science, Nathan Kapoor, will develop new courses in the histories of medicine and technology as well a general survey course on the history of science. He is also keen to create a course on the history of public health, which should appeal to nursing students. Kapoor will also be active in the new interdisciplinary Science Studies initiative.

The hire in 19th-century Europe, Taylor Soja, plans to develop courses in digital history and data science, which will contribute to the new Data Science major. She will also be creating new courses on the British Empire and comparative empires.

We developed a plan for how to offer FCR on-line graduate courses to high school teachers seeking to earn an endorsement to teach dual credit courses. These course offerings will expand the Department's graduate education curriculum to reach a potential new market of students who are unable to take graduate courses on campus. The FCR courses also might be a way to recruit students into the regular graduate program. Given our staff shortage (HIS had five unexpected administrative and medical/personal leaves among TT faculty in FY22, on top of four others on planned administrative or scholarly leaves), we did not have a faculty discussion on the plan and did not implement it. This discussion is probably best deferred until FY24, when our staffing issues should be mitigated.

We continued our systematic review of our curriculum, with the Department Curriculum Committee soliciting and reviewing ideas about our course and major structure from faculty. The Department has not done a major review of its curriculum in over 20 years, so this project is overdue. Due to the staffing issue noted above, progress was limited.

D. Accomplishments Related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We continued and enhanced our recruitment scholarships and initiated retention scholarships (see above). These initiatives directly aim to increase the diversity of our majors and to retain students who are first generation in college.

The course offerings of the two new TT hires will include topics with appeal to a diverse range of students, including topics such as comparative indigenous history and comparative empires.

E. Accomplishments Related to Faculty Success

The Department supplemented CAS travel funds for faculty to allow for an allotment of about \$1,000 for each TT faculty member. Faculty who exceed the \$1,000 allotment will receive additional funding to cover the full cost of their professional travel.

The position for Student Teacher Coordinator was re-defined to include instruction, a 1-1 load to teach HIS 391. This revision of the position included increasing the FTE from .50 to .75. This accomplishment contributed to faculty success by allowing for certainty of funding for the teaching of HIS 391 and by increasing the salary of the position.

F. Accomplishments Related to Student Success

The position for one of the Department's advisors was re-defined to drop instruction and increase advising duties. It also went from a 10-month to a 12-month position. These changes will enhance the Department's capability to advise its nearly-500 majors.

The retention scholarships noted above enhance student success by financially rewarding the academic efforts of first-year students meeting specific demographic and GPA metrics.

After sharply dropping during the height of the pandemic, participation by our majors in internships rebounded; in CY 2021, we generated 68 credit hours in internships.

II. Internal Reallocations and Reorganizations in FY22

A. Reallocation of AP funds

Dan Stump retired from 10-month advisor position. Changed 10-month 100% time AP position to 12-month 100% time AP position. Added 1-1 teaching load to Sara Piotrowski AP position, changing her 10-month 50% time AP position to a 10-month 75% time AP position. Received \$2940 permanent increase in AP line.

Other permanent increases in personnel funds include \$24,003 for tenure and promotion, \$1125 for NTT 2nd longevity increase, \$12,126.83 for NTT increases, \$2,674.19 for Clerical increases, and \$30,737.85 for AP, CS, and TTF merit increases.
Temporary reallocation--\$1500 from operating funds to student worker salary.

B. **Received** \$36,917 for Summer Session funding; \$83,591 for Instructional Capacity; and \$77,743 for Gen Ed.

C. **Used** \$660 in Foundation funds for faculty recruitment, speaker, and graduate reception. Also \$12,200 in Foundation Awards for fall. Estimate around an additional \$34,400 in Foundation Awards in spring.

Other additional funds used: \$14,750 for minority recruitment scholarships; \$8815 for speakers; \$10,000 to cover classes from unexpected LOA; \$13,500 for GA salaries; \$6500 for Student Teacher Supervisor travel; \$8800 for faculty research; \$16,773 for equipment; \$1000 for program review; \$5000 for freshmen retention scholarships; and \$4000 for faculty recruitment.

III. Major Objectives for FY23

Program Development and Student Success:

- **Complete program review:**

This is due September 15, 2022. This review is a timely opportunity for the Department to assess its overall performance and to reflect on the direction it wants to go over the next eight years. This goal aligns with ECE I, II, III, and IV; CAS 1, 3, and 4; HIS 1-5.

- **Intensify curriculum review and connect the process to a review of TT hire priorities:**

We have TTs who may be retiring within the next few years. This reality, in combination with the short-term staffing shortage noted above and the successful recent hire of two new colleagues, means that we must develop a medium-term priority list of the TT lines we want, beyond our immediate need for hires in History of East Asia and Economic History. Such a list necessarily must be connected with consideration of the curriculum we want to offer our students.

This goal aligns with ECE I, II, III, and IV; CAS 1, 3, and 4; HIS 1-5.

- **Hire TT line in History of East Asia:**

Our specialist in Chinese history abruptly resigned for personal reasons in Spring 22. This resignation exacerbates the Department's serious staff shortage. Since Fall 2014, the number of undergraduate HIS majors has increased by 36% (from 362 to 493) while TT faculty by Fall 2022 will have declined by one (from 24 to 23, including the Chair), even with two new TT hires coming on board in August 2022. Of the 23 TT lines, three will almost certainly be on administrative leave in FY23. Two of those three will likely not return to the Department for the foreseeable future. In addition, another faculty member has been on FMLA and SURS disability leave for two years (FY21 and FY22) and there is no evidence she will return to the Department any time soon, if ever. Realistically, then, the actual number of active TT lines in HIS in FY23 and beyond is 20 – a sharp decline from 24 even as enrollment has risen for seven consecutive years. TT faculty in History also generate the fourth-highest number of credit hours in CAS (8,552 in FY21) and the Department's average TT credit hour production is 428, compared to an average of 407 in CAS and 374 in the University. This position will fill curricular holes (namely 7 courses related to the history of Asia), contribute to interdisciplinary and international studies, and very possibly diversify the faculty given the likely applicant pool in the field. This goal aligns with ECE I, II, and III; CAS 1 and 3; HIS 4.

- **Hire TT line in Economic History:**

The status of HIS TT lines, enrollment trends, and credit hour production noted above likewise provide part of the rationale for this objective. In addition, this hire will provide a new area of expertise and courses for our students, as we currently have no one on staff who specializes in economic history. This gap especially hurts students in our teacher education program who are expected to be able to teach economics as secondary school teachers. The position will also potentially contribute to interdisciplinary studies across several CAS units and across colleges, as economic history is a wide-ranging field. Topics under investigation in the discipline include, for example, the economic development of the Global South, the political economy of interstate violence, Eurasian trade and the rise of multinational corporations, the economic history of family planning, and the evolution of international financial markets. The inherently interdisciplinary and international character of the field will also appeal to diverse students. This goal aligns with ECE I, II, and III; CAS 1 and 3; HIS 4

EDI and Student Success:

- **Continue the recruitment and retention scholarship programs via SBC or foundation funds:**

As noted above, these initiatives aim at increasing the number of and retaining students from underrepresented groups and first generation in college students.

This goal aligns with ECE III; CAS 3; HIS 1.

- **Hire TT lines in History of East Asia and Economic History:**

See above.

Faculty and Student Success:

- **Secure additional professional travel funds above CAS's allotment to the Department, via SBC/RERIP funds:**

In addition to travel to conferences to present and discuss their research, most History faculty must travel to archives/libraries to discover and review sources critical to their work. This travel is the equivalent of labs and equipment for them – without it, they cannot produce the research that underpins their scholarship and teaching.

This goal aligns with ECE I and III; CAS 1 and 3; HIS 4.

- **Hire TT lines in History of East Asia and Economic History:**

See above.

IV. Tentative SBC Requests

Estimated SBC total = \$83,000. This includes \$33,000 in RERIP funds.

Equipment	14,294 (Computer recaps)
Enrollment Growth	15,000 (Minority-FGIC recruitment scholarships)
Student Success	8,200 (Retention scholarships, student journal RTP, Newsletter)
Travel	27,000 (Dept. fully covers 18 TT travel, no CAS contrib. needed)
Start Up	6,000 (SCI and EURO hires who start in August 2022)
IC	12,500 (raises for 5 of 12 GAs; Anderson HIS 395 Archives)

Total = \$82,994