DATE: December 2, 2013

TO: University Academic Budget Committee

FROM: Nancy Turner, Chair, Social Sciences Department

RE: Restructuring of Social Sciences Department

The costs to implement the proposed re-structuring of the Social Sciences Department will be very low. LAE Dean Liz Throop has determined that the necessary FTEs for forming three new departments currently exist and are readily available. She has also stated that the College of LAE will be able to absorb any long-term costs associated with the formation of the three new departments. (See her accompanying letter).

There will be few one-time costs of this re-structuring. There is already sufficient administrative support staff in place. The new Geography/Geology Department will continue to share an academic department associate with the Women's and Gender Studies Program on the second floor of Gardner Hall. The new History Department and the new Social Sciences Department will continue to share an academic department associate on the first floor of Gardner Hall. No moving expenses for teaching staff, support staff, or office furniture are anticipated.

One minor cost will be an additional .75 FTE required to cover release time for three chairs in place of the current single chair. The current chair of the combined department has a .75 FTE release. As a result of the re-structuring, each of the three new chairs will be given a .5 teaching release. Therefore the combined release time for the three chairs will be 1.5 FTE, resulting in the need for an additional .75 FTE over the current status quo. Dean Throop is aware of the added release time required by the re-structuring and has assured me that the College of LAE has the funds to cover it.

I anticipate that no programs, staff, or projects will need to be cut or abandoned as a result of the restructuring. One potential loss will be the ease with which FTE was shared or transferred between the five programs within the combined Social Sciences Department. However, the directors of each program have met with Dean Throop and have agreed upon a permanent distribution of FTE that each program director considers to be fair and equitable.