Starter Questions for Departmental Introspection
(advised as an exercise for all departments)

1. What has been the historical development or the discipline(s) reflected in our department?

2. What is the history of our department here at WP and of the disciplines (if more than one) included within it?

3. Can we identify core values and perspectives that are universally held by the members of our department/discipline? If yes, how important are those core values as it might inform joining or partnering with another department(s), or even to ourselves and a vision for our future? If no, what is at the root of that lack of consensus?

4. Every department has strengths and limitations. What are ours and how have we sought to capitalize on our strengths and address limitations, if we have?

5. What are the needs of society for which our discipline(s) are well suited for addressing? How effective have we, or our departmental members, been at meeting those needs (here consideration of objective measures such as enrollment trends, retention, major migration in or out, teaching performance, scholarly production, grant activity, and service contribution are important).

6. Where might there be potential synergies with other departments or disciplines? Synergies could be defined in many ways, although the opportunities of enrollment growth either within the department, or stimulated elsewhere at the university are obvious ones.