

Faculty Research Committee

Chair: Renee Douglas and Co-Chair: Paul Klatt

2009-10 Brief

The committee met regularly through-out the academic year. Three proposals were submitted and all three were approved for funding. The updated evaluation & approval process had been piloted the previous year and was used again without issue. It was agreed that veteran members would partner up with new members for the review process, but with so few proposals, all members reviewed each proposal. Partnering will occur in the future should the number of proposals increase, which is expected. Because of the low number of proposals, it was decided that the committee would consider approaching the Senate next year about offering two submission dates in the 2010-11 academic year.

The committee also spent time discussing other ongoing issues such as creating a mechanism to provide feedback to faculty who may not get their proposal funded in the future. Other ideas include offering pre-application guidance through the “model proposal” on the FRC website.

The committee discussed having graduate student participants on the committee, but with limited responsibility, especially with determining the appropriateness of having grad students reviewing the proposals of their own faculty members—this seems to be a conflict. It is unclear to committee in what capacity grad students would be useful.

Time commitment of each member was also discussed. The consensus appeared to be that members would consider a five-year commitment instead of three for better continuity in reviewing proposals annually.

Finally, the committee discussed, and will continue to discuss, a mechanism to better monitor grantees and their report writing requirements after being funded. There appears to be a lack of closure for committee members on approved proposals, etc. , which came to light when a) a previous grantee requested an extension, and b) a new proposal was submitted based upon a previously funded proposal.

The committee looks forward to reconvening in the spring.