

Arts and Sciences Council
Committee on Faculty Research
June 30th 2015

Committee Charge:

“The committee on Faculty Research has two responsibilities: a) it shall administer the awarding of grants for research and conference travel made available each year by the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and b) it shall address larger issues of research that are important for Arts and Sciences faculty.”

Introduction:

This past year the committee was pleased to fund 42 travel grants and 26 research grants to fully encumber our \$150,000 budget. ASC-CFR conference support remains limited, but the Divisional Deans, Linda Burton, Dan Kiehart and Richard Powell have stepped in with their discretionary funds and assisted on a limited basis, faculty in organizing conferences on campus.

Meetings:

The committee met on April 7th to decide funding for research grants and to discuss the committee’s work in general. We received applications from 31 faculty members. There were many qualified applications considered, and the committee limited the awards to \$5,000 so that we could assist as many applicants as possible. The committee also decided to continue with the current practice of not considering applications from the previous year. I believe that we left the meeting confident that we have funded or partially funded every worthy request. The breakdown of awards is as follows, Humanities: 10 awards, Natural Sciences: 8 awards, Social Sciences: 11 awards, totaling \$102,000.00

Accomplishments:

Other than funding research grants, we provided funding for limited travel support for faculty with no start-up research accounts. The total budgeted for travel is \$60,000 with \$12,000 of these funds being transferred to the research fund to assist with faculty research grants awarded. There were five request from Emeriti for travel and all five were granted. The committee will continue to support Emeriti in the coming academic year.

Challenges:

We would like to provide more seed grants to encourage faculty starting new research but our money is limited. We accommodated more grant requests this year by shifting some money from the travel fund, which had not been as depleted as in the past years. But this new source may not be available in the future. In an ideal world we should phase out our current practice of not considering applications from faculty who received fund during the previous year.

Valera France