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Minutes, Faculty Research and Development Committee Meeting, Friday, January 27, 2023

Faculty Research and Development Committee

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Approved Minutes
College of Liberal Arts' Faculty Research & Development Committee Meeting
Friday, January 27th, 2023
12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
KWR 330

Committee Members

The following colleagues were present:

Serina Haddad (*At-Large Rep*)
Devon Massot (*Non-Voting Member*)
David Caban (*Business Division Rep*)
Mike Gunter (*At-Large Rep*)
Eric Smaw (*2021-22 Committee Chair & Humanities Division Rep*)
Pamela Brannock (*Science & Mathematics Division Rep, Note Taker*)
Pavielle Haines (*Social Sciences Division Rep*)
Janette Smith (*Non-Voting Member*)
Nancy Chick (*Non-Voting Member*)

The following colleagues were not present:

Kara Wunderlich (*Social Sciences Applied Division Rep*)
Ashley Kistler (*Non-Voting Member*)

CALL TO ORDER

- I. Eric Smaw called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM

OLD BUSINESS

- I. Approve minutes
 - A. No members had any changes or comments to make about either of these minute drafts
 - B. All voting members faculty voted to approve both of the minutes

NEW BUSINESS

- I. Elections for Chair of the FRDC Committee
 - A. All voting faculty members voted to elect Mike Gunter as chair

- II. Informal discussion of grant deadlines
 - A. Serina Haddad noted that having two deadlines made it difficult to engage in budget planning and fair allocation of funds. Since the committee can't predict how many applications will be submitted in the Spring, it may unnecessarily limit funding for applications submitted in the Fall.
 - B. Janette Smith asked if the by-laws require two separate deadlines. Eric Smaw confirmed that they do.
 - C. Janette Smith suggested providing recommendations to the Dean's Office and letting them worry about if and how to fund projects.
 - D. Pamela Brannock suggested the need for more continuity in committee membership from year-to-year so that clear guidelines can be established for evaluating grant applications. This will lead to consistency in funding decisions, regardless of deadlines.

- III. Explanation of grant review documentation on Canvas
 - A. Nancy Chick explained where to find grant review documents on the committee Canvas site. Each type of grant has documentation for rubrics, current grant proposals, and reports for grants previously awarded.
 - B. Pamela Brannock asked if there was a location where old grant proposals were stored. Nancy Chick showed where to find them under "Files."
 - C. Nancy Chick explained a new faculty-facing page that includes detailed information about each grant deadline, form, funding, criteria, etc. This page is intended to make it easier for faculty to submit grant proposals. It does not include a list of past recipients. Pamela Brannock suggested including information about the percentage of proposals funded. Several members suggested also including sample proposals on the site.
 - D. Nancy Chick explained new documentation that covers the FRDC's annual schedule. It is meant to provide a template for planning and scheduling. This document is still in progress.

- IV. By-law changes
 - A. Eric Smaw explained proposed by-law changes that would put the Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship and Cornell Distinguished Faculty Award under the purview of

the FRDC. They would also clarify that the FRDC covers *only* grants and awards for which CLA faculty are eligible to apply.

- i. The FITI and OER grants would be removed from the FRDC by-laws and purview.
 - ii. All-college grants would be handled by an all-college FRDC.
- B. Pamela Brannock asked about eligibility for the Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship and Cornell Distinguished Faculty Award. Mike Gunter clarified that these awards are for tenured and tenure-track faculty. Pamela Brannock asked if there were guidelines for submitting and evaluating these applications. Janette Smith said she would get that information from the Provost's office.
- C. Mike Gunter asked who currently adjudicated the Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship and Cornell Distinguished Faculty Award. Eric Smaw explained that up till now they have been handled by special committees in the Dean and Provost's offices. Mike Gunter asked if the Dean and Provost's offices were amenable to putting these awards under the purview of the FRDC. Eric Smaw confirmed they were.
- D. Eric Smaw asked if a change in the by-laws would mean the FRDC would review the Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship and Cornell Distinguished Faculty Award this year. Several members noted this might be impractical and it would be better to begin review next year. Mike Gunter said he suspects these applications are all over the place in terms of volume. Eric Smaw said that in his experience there were relatively few. It is unclear if the FRDC would need to review them this semester. Eric Smaw suggested clarifying when the committee would start reviewing these applications. Pamela Brannock noted that it would be best to begin next fall so that there was time to develop rubrics and a review process.
- E. Pamela Brannock requested holding off on a vote on the proposed by-law changes so that there was time to solicit feedback from her division.
- F. Mike Gunter noted that because of how opaque the Cornell Distinguished Faculty Award process is, it might be better for the FRDC not to take it over. He expressed concern that doing so might be politically unpopular and seen as a power grab from the already endowed chairs by the FRDC. He felt a better case could be made for the Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship. Eric Smaw noted that faculty expressed frustration with the lack of transparency and that they might want the FRDC to take both these awards on.
- G. Mike Gunter suggested inviting administrators to an upcoming FRDC meeting to explain their position and logic. Eric Smaw noted that Executive Committee has already voted to approve these changes and that there is administrative support.
- H. No vote was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Eric Smaw adjourned the meeting at 3:53 pm