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Faculty Research and Development Committee
Minutes

College of Liberal Arts Minutes and Reports

9-12-2023

Minutes, Faculty Research and Development Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Faculty Research and Development Committee

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**Approved Minutes
College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research & Development Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Bush 123**

Committee Members

The following individuals were present:

Booby Fokidis (Committee Chair and Science Division Rep)

Marianne DiQuattro (Expressive Arts Rep)

Rachel Walton (Secretary and Social Science Applied Division Rep)

Bill Boles (Humanities Division Rep)

David Caban (Business Division Rep)

Devon Massot (Non-Voting Member)

Ahsley Kistler (Non-Voting Member), accompanied by Jannette Smith

Nancy Chick (Non-Voting Member)

Call to Order

Bobby Fokidis called the meeting to order at 12:31pm.

Old Business:

The first announcement was that the committee still needs two more voting members according to the Bylaws – “Membership of the Faculty Research and Development Committee consists of seven voting members and three nonvoting members. The voting membership shall be one faculty representative from each division of the College of Liberal Arts (elected by division) and one faculty representative elected by the Faculty at-large. The non-voting membership includes the Dean of the Faculty, the Director of the Endeavor Center, and the Director of Grants and Sponsored Research.”

The chair of the committee is in the process of trying to fill these membership slots.

Next the group did personal introductions.

Following introductions, Bobby Fokidis was elected unanimously as chair of the committee for the 2023-2024 school year.

Rachel Walton volunteered to serve as Secretary for the committee for the 2023-2024 school year. She was also elected unanimously.

There was a discussion about the number of proposals to be expected.

The Dean of CLA mentioned that, historically, there is a minimum of 7 submissions each year but there could be as many as 14 submissions.

September 29th is the deadline to submit a FYRST grant.

A discussion of financial projections about what amount of money we can hope to allot worthy submissions ensued.

A formal budget for the 2023-2024 committee will be presented to the group by the CLA Dean at a future meeting.

The Dean of CLA also suggested, in terms of money management strategies for the group, reserving between five and ten thousand dollars of the total budget as a buffer, to ensure that the group does not overspend the allotted endowment funds. One suggestion in response to that recommendation was that a waiting list could be established so that “extra” funding can be awarded for a “waitlist” candidate if the buffer funds end up being available.

In addition, the idea of offering a “Revise and Resubmit” option for Fall 2023 applicants who might want a chance to submit improved materials in Spring 2024 was entertained by the group.

One thing that the group reviewed within the provided documentation on the Canvas site was the following guideline: “the committee will recommend for at least partial funding all proposals deemed acceptable.” (FDRC Guidelines – page 3 item 5)

To this point, there was a comment that funding rates have been high in the past.

In addition, it was emphasized that the rubric for reviewing grants is intended to offer a quantitative approach to evaluating and ranking submissions. Both print and Qualtrics versions have been used in the past. The group suggested a revised Qualtrics form for the committee to utilize this year. Rachel agreed to try and create that as a draft for the group to review, approve, and use before submissions need to be evaluated.

There was a question about whether the committee could review the award and grant history of individual submitters. Because of the emphasis on and need for anonymity, this is not possible. However, the Dean’s office will confirm if applicants have submitted all required reports for past funding so that the committee will have access to that data.

The Dean’s office will also confirm other eligibility criteria (for example whether the candidate is receiving/ applying for other funding opportunities) before the committee makes final decisions. This will ensure that only eligible candidates can be recommended by the FDRC.

The question about whether submitters need to have already completed IRB approval came up. It was determined that IRB approval was not necessary at the time of the application for a submitter to be considered eligible.

The Dean’s office needs committee recommendations for FYRST Grants by November 15.

The Dean's office needs committee recommendations for Critchfield, Ashforth, Cornell, and IDGs by December 1.

Committee work will occur asynchronously between now and the next meeting time which is scheduled for October 24th from 12:30 to 2:00pm. This work will require all members of the FDRC to review and, using a rubric tool, rate each proposal. Then the committee will have a discussion based on this data at the October 24th meeting to make final determinations.

There was a discussion about how to provide grant awardees feedback once they have submitted their end-of-grant reports. It was determined that the CLA Dean might offer the most welcome and useful feedback for these reports. The committee suggested that she provide that feedback in the future because the committee's review and feedback did not seem like a useful or valued mechanism.

The committee reviewed the suggested FDRC Bylaws changes, which have already been approved by the Executive Committee.

There was a discussion about the suggested change in the Bylaws that would result in assigning the FDRC review of some faculty awards. Specifically, the new language referenced was: "Awards to be reviewed by the Faculty Research and Development Committee include, but are not limited to, the Cornell Distinguished Faculty Award (in CLA) and Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship" (Article VII Section 3).

Perspectives on awards becoming the purview of FDRC committee were various. Issues brought up included the need to increase transparency with the decision-making mechanism of these awards, a concern about unmanageable workloads for the committee, and a general question of what the will of the larger faculty body might be regarding this change.

The discussion of the Bylaws was tabled without a consensus on this matter, and it was determined that this topic should be explored further by the committee in the future, whether synchronously or asynchronously.

Adjournment:

The meeting concluded at 1:58pm. BF moved to adjourn the meeting. BB seconded.