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Faculty Research and Development Committee
Minutes

College of Liberal Arts Minutes and Reports

3-26-2024

Minutes, Faculty Research and Development Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Faculty Research and Development Committee

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College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research & Development Committee Meeting (FRDC)

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

12:00a.m. – 1:35pm

In person in Bush 123 and virtually via TEAMS

Committee Members

The following Individuals were present:

Bobby Fokidis (Committee Chair and Science Division Rep)

Rachel Walton (Secretary and Social Science Applied Division Rep) – joined virtually

Ruonan Zhang (At Large Member)

Marianne DiQuattro (Expressive Arts Rep)

Bill Boles (Humanities Division Rep) -- arrived at 1:05pm

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

Nancy Chick (Non-Voting Member)

Devon Massot (Non-Voting Member)

Call to Order

The Chair, Bobby Fokidis, Called the meeting to order at 12:14pm.

The group approved the last two meeting minutes with one minor correction provided by Devon Massot.

Old Business

- A. Student Faculty Collaborative Scholarship recommendations were made. There was not a lot of time for this work, but we followed through to the best of our best ability. All but one application was funded. There may be opportunities for streamlining this recommendation process in the future to allow for more time to review the proposals.
- B. The committee discussed a special request from a Spring 2024 Critchfield Grant applicant to reconsider funding their upcoming sabbatical project. The discussion resulted in a group decision that the Sabbatical project did not fit within the parameters of the Critchfield Grant, and therefore would not be funded.

New Business

- A. The committee had a discussion about the upcoming change in the decision-making process for faculty awards -- specifically the Cornell Distinguished Faculty Award and Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship Award. The process for reviewing awards by the committee still needs to be developed. As a first attempt the committee will review the upcoming applications (Due by April 10th) for the Cornell Distinguished Faculty Award, develop and vet a rubric for reviewing said award, and complete the process of ranking award applications (asynchronously) before April 26th. The committee will communicate as needed with the Dean's office during this pilot. The Arthur Vining Davis Fellowship Award will not be reviewed by the committee until the following academic year.
- B. The committee discussed the amount of grant funding available to faculty through the various endowments and there was a consensus that the dedicated funds for faculty research are no longer sufficient as they have not been increased in decades. To show the need for further funding for faculty research, and possibly appeal to Advancement about generating more dedicated funds for this important aspect of faculty work, the committee wants to look further at the following data points:
- The number of meritorious applications that have received partial funding in the past five years, and comparing that percentage to the group that has received full funding
 - Awardees' track records for requesting funds. The basic question is -- are these grants used by the same small group of people over and over again or are the funds spread out across a large group of faculty?
 - The demographic break down of grant recipients in the past five years across the following categories: discipline, department, tenure status, rank, sex, gender, and race.

This is something that the Dean's office agrees to spearhead on behalf of the group over the summer and report back to the Committee in the beginning of the Fall.

At the end of this discussion there was the question about how many faculty grant applicants get partial funding and therefore cannot/don't do the project due to the fact that they don't get 100% of what is needed. This would be a difficult and complicated data point to track and gather, but there was a suggestion to possibly (a) having an open forum discussion about this in the future or (b) offering a campus-wide survey on this issue could assist in gathering more information from faculty from across campus about this possible concern.

- C. The group wrapped up with a discussion about who the new members of the committee will be and who is rolling off the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32pm.