

Proposal for School of Arts and Sciences' Multidisciplinary Faculty Scholars

We propose that the Dean of Arts and Sciences institute a program to support and encourage interdisciplinary scholarly activity among A&S faculty.

General Description

This program, titled "Multidisciplinary Faculty Scholars," will support three to five full-time A&S faculty members each with a one-semester one course release as they work together on a collaborative scholarly project over the course of that semester. It is anticipated that one group of scholars will be funded on an annual basis during each Fall semester.

Procedure for Proposal

Competitive proposals from a group of three to five A&S full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty members for a semester-long interdisciplinary study of a particular topic (e.g., global warming; poverty; ethnic conflict; the interface of science and religion) are to be submitted to a Screening Committee. Proposals must represent faculty from at least two of the three A&S areas (humanities, social sciences, physical sciences).

Proposals shall include a three- to five-page group proposal, as well as individual projects to be integrated into the group project. Each individual project should be described in a separate three- to five-page proposal. The group proposal should describe the topic the participants expect to examine, and how they propose to do it, and what they expect as an outcome. Individuals should state their personal part in the project, how it relates to the group project, their own goal and expected outcome, how they anticipate that participation will influence their own scholarship, and in what other ways they expect to benefit from participation.

No more than one faculty member from a department may participate in any colloquium. Faculty members who participate in a colloquium will be ineligible to participate again for a period of seven years.

Proposals are due December 1. The Screening Committee will announce the award on February 1, to support work the following Fall semester.

The first two Screening Committees will be named by the Dean, in consultation with the A&S Executive Committee, and will represent all areas in the School (humanities, social sciences, physical sciences). Subsequent Screening Committees will consist of the faculty who received the award two years earlier.

Criteria for Award

- The merit of the scholarship in the proposal. The group proposal and each individual proposal should be well grounded in the literature, well written, and have clear goals and outcomes for the group project and for each participant's individual project.

- The nature of the topic (wide-ranging, significant, or important topic)
- The degree to which the individual projects are integrated into the group project.
- Proposals of equal merit from groups representing all three areas will be given higher priority than those representing two areas.
- The following criteria will be considered, but are not as essential as those listed above:
 - The potential for impact on the faculty and students in the School of Arts and Sciences, and on the surrounding community.
 - The potential of the project to lead to further development of the participants' individual scholarship, interdisciplinary scholarship, publication, and/or external grant support.
 - The potential for impact on the school's curriculum (e.g., a new interdisciplinary course, or availability of participants to give guest lectures in other courses).
 - The development of an innovative product.

Award

- Recipients will receive one course release during the semester of their participation in the project. The School of Arts and Sciences will provide associate faculty stipends to the departments of those faculty members, in order to replace them in the classroom.
- The School of Arts and Sciences will provide S&E support as needed for photocopying and other expenses. (Perhaps there should be a budget submitted)
- The School of Arts and Sciences will provide the services of a school secretary.
- Participants will receive an individual plaque, will have their names engraved on a plaque in the School Office, and will be listed on the School website.

Obligations of the Participants

- The participants will devote time to reading and study of their subject matter during the semester of study. They will meet on a regular basis, most likely weekly, for discussion of their individual topics and of the group topic.
- The participants will schedule two or three Brown Bag lunches during their period of study (i.e., generally the Fall semester) for open, informal discussion of their topic. No formal presentation is expected at these gatherings. All faculty in the School will be invited to take part in the discussion.
- A formal presentation is expected during the Spring semester following the period of

study. This presentation is to be open to faculty, students, and the community.

- A written document, in monograph form, to be published on campus and on the web, should describe the outcome of the semester of interdisciplinary study.
- Although not required, participants are highly encouraged to publish or present their work in forums appropriate to their disciplines, and to seek external funding for further study. They are also encouraged to develop interdisciplinary courses or innovative products, and/or to have impact on the local or regional community.