

Report of the Faculty Research Committee, 2007-2008

The Faculty Research Committee is a College committee composed of twelve members, three from each of the Areas in Arts & Science and one from each of the professional schools---Business Administration, Education, and Law. The vice provost for research is a non-voting member ex officio. Members of this year's committee were: Lizabeth Allison (Biology), William Cooke (Physics), Ram Ganeshan (Business Administration), Eric Kades (Law), Barbara King (Anthropology), Graham Ousey (Sociology), Robert Pike (Chemistry), Lynn Pelco (Education), Abdul-Karim Rafeq (History), Robert Scholnick (English), Barbette Spaeth (Classical Studies), Patricia Wesp (Theatre, Speech, and Dance), and Dennis Manos (Vice Provost for Research, ex officio).

Currently, the FRC administers two faculty programs: Faculty Summer Research Grants (SRGs), and requests for books subventions. In each case, the Committee reports its recommendations directly to the Provost. All final decisions rest with the Provost. Recommendations for changes in the policies governing these programs are made to the Faculty Assembly.

This year the FRC received 52 very good proposals for Summer Research Grants, using an electronic application process for the first time. The new submission process worked well, but it is clear that the application form and the call for proposals needs significant revisions, which the FRC hopes to conclude this by the end of this academic year. The FRC was initially budgeted to recommend 40 awards. As directed by the Faculty Assembly, the FRC gave bonus points to new faculty members, and then ranked the proposals in subcommittees representing the three areas. Following a spirited discussion, the FRC recommended 41 Summer Research Grants be funded in early December. This included five to be designated as Susan Matthews Summer Grants, four to be designated as Dominion Summer Grants, and one to be designated as a Wren Summer Research Grant.. The Governor's proposed budget created significant uncertainties that prevented the Provost from promptly acting on these recommendations. Nevertheless, the Provost did eventually grant all 41 the awards as the FRC had recommended.

Respectfully submitted,
William Cooke, Chair