TO: All Faculty

FROM: Michael R. Halleran, Provost

DATE: November 30, 2017

SUBJECT: W. Taylor Reveley, III Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellows

I am delighted to issue the third call for proposals for the W. Taylor Reveley, III Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellows Program. Through a most generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in honor of President Reveley’s long-term excellent leadership on the Mellon board of directors, the university is able to establish this program. Its goal is to stimulate intellectual creativity across the campus by facilitating faculty commitment to interdisciplinary teaching and research, taking greater advantage of our existing intellectual resources in novel combinations.

For over two decades interdisciplinary inquiry has brought considerable excitement to research and teaching, and many faculty members have discovered that bringing together different disciplinary approaches is both liberating and a spur to new findings and paradigms. The most common barrier to interdisciplinary work has been inadequate structure and support. This program creates an abiding and renewing mechanism for encouraging this type of work. The focus is on integrative and interdisciplinary teaching, but since scholarship and teaching are intimately linked in the William & Mary model of education, it is expected that Fellows will also generate new scholarship informed by their project. Not all interdisciplinary work is also collaborative, but this program targets collaborative work, and so Fellows will be awarded and operate in pairs.

Faculty selected will serve as Reveley Faculty Fellows for a three-year period, during which time each Fellow will receive a modest stipend ($4,000/year), collaboratively develop a new course in the first year and teach it in the second and third. In the second two years, the faculty members’ schools/departments will receive additional funds to cover any lost teaching. (In cases where faculty leave intersects this three-year period, arrangements may be made so that the Fellows may carry out the teaching beyond this period.) The current Fellows will gather occasionally to share their work with each other and they will also participate annually in a meeting with a larger group of past Reveley Faculty Fellows and the broader campus community.
November 30, 2017
Page Two

Since the program supports faculty over a multi-year period, we will be able to offer more fellowships in the first years and then taper to a steady state. In year one, twelve fellows (six pairs of collaborators) were selected. In each subsequent year, up to four fellows (two pairs of collaborators) will be selected.

Applications are available at:
http://www.wm.edu/offices/sponsoredprograms/announcements/w.-taylor-reveley.-iii-interdisciplinary-faculty-fellows-fellows-application.php

The process is as follows:

1. Eligibility extends to all continuing W&M full-time, continuing faculty, both tenure- and non-tenure-eligible.

2. Each application will include a description of the project in terms readily accessible by those not expert in the field and the new course emerging from it; assessment plan (beyond course evaluations); anticipated impact on scholarship and other teaching; approval from the relevant dean and (if applicable) chair; and current CVs. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

3. A small faculty committee will make recommendations to the Provost, who will make the final selection.

4. The key criteria will be creativity of proposal; ability of applicants to carry it out in the allotted time period; impact on the curriculum and the campus intellectual community; likelihood of success; depth of integration between/across areas; and potential to lead to future scholarship/research. Preference will be given to proposals that cross school (and not only department) boundaries, and that help to advance the institution’s strategic priorities, such as implementation of the new core curriculum.

5. Selected Reveley Faculty Fellows will be notified in March 2018.

I hope you find the Reveley Faculty Fellowship program as exciting as I do. It will foster the best of what we do at William & Mary, and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

MRH/cef

c: Ann Marie Stock, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs