

**Faculty Research Committee
Annual Report to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
March 11, 2003**

Overview

As with most other things at the College, the FRC's work was affected this year by budget considerations. In spring 2002 the Provost noted that it would be necessary to reckon with a cut in research support, affecting the number, amount and terms for most types of internal grants. Thus the FRC began is planning for 2002-2003 with the following general parameters:

Projected Overall Faculty Research Budget

2002-2003: \$540,000

2001-2002: \$885,000

Projected Faculty Research Assignments (FRAs)

2002-2003: 30 FRAs at \$13,500 each to Deans

2001-2002: 34 FRAs at \$19,000 each to Deans

Projected Summer Research Grants (SRGs)

2002-2003: 30 SRGs at \$4500 each (tenure-eligible faculty only eligible)

2001-2002: 44 SRGs at \$4500 each (tenured and tenure-eligible faculty eligible)

Projected Minor Research Grants (MRGs)

2002-2003: \$10,000 total (undergraduate/graduate students only eligible)

2001-2002: \$20,000 total (faculty and undergraduate/graduate students eligible)

Further concerns about the budget in Fall 2003 led the Provost to inform the Committee that it should suspend consideration of SRGs in September and of FRAs in October. Additional funding made it possible to resume reviewing both sets of applications in November, albeit still under the general limitations set out in Spring 2002 (although the gift of \$150,000 by Suzann Matthews made it possible to fund a somewhat larger number—33 at \$4500 each, rather than 30).

Committee Recommendations

Following policy guidelines published on the Grants Office website, the Committee's subcommittee reviewed applications in November/December and finalized its recommendations in December. Given that the SRGs would be funded from the Matthews gift, they were considered entirely separately from the FRAs (allowing no tradeoffs between the two types of grants as in previous years). The Committee also reviewed applications for the Freeman Foundation summer grants, available exclusively for project proposals in East Asian Studies.

Faculty Research Assignments

Total: 34 applications, 30 recommended for funding

Area I: 12 applications, 11 recommended for funding

Area II*: 11 applications, 9 recommended for funding

Area III: 11 applications, 10 recommended for funding

Summer Research Grants

Total: 48 applications, 33 recommended for funding, 13 wait-listed

Area I: 18 applications, 12 recommended for funding, 6 wait-listed
Area II*: 23 applications, 16 recommended for funding, 7 wait-listed
Area III: 7 applications, 5 recommended for funding, 2 wait-listed

(In consultation with the chair of FRC, the Provost decided to fund more of the wait-listed applications by setting the amount of each SRG from \$4500 to \$4000, with a result that 37 total SRGS were ultimately funded).

Freeman Summer Grants (East Asian Studies)

Total: 10 applications, 6 recommended for funding

Minor Research Grants

Fall 2002: 45 applications, 22 recommended for funding

Spring 2003: 59 applications, 20 recommended for funding

Policy Considerations

Plainly the budget situation led to changes in policy on both SRGs and MRGs in 2002-2003. At the same time, the SRG selection criteria were already heavily weighted towards junior, tenure-eligible faculty: in 2001-2002, for example, before SRG eligibility was restricted due to budget constraints, only two of forty tenured applicants received SRGs. So the bigger impact of budget limits this year was not on the category of faculty receiving them but on the number of recipients, an effect that the Provost mitigated by increasing the total number of SRGs awarded.

Budget constraints also affected FRAs, though the major impact was really felt by Deans and departments: the largest drop was in the amount of replacement costs—from \$19,000 per FRA in 2001–2002 to \$13,500 this year. In fact, the total number of FRAs given and the ratio of successful applications did not change substantially from 2001-2002 to 2002-2003.

One persistent issue for the FRC is the selection process for FRAs. Currently all tenured faculty with six or more years of service since a previous FRA (or those just tenured) are eligible and there is no premium given for years of service beyond six: recommendations are made solely on the merit of the proposal and the applicant's research record. Since suggestions have been made that years of service beyond six should be taken into account, the FRC is discussing a review of its criteria with the Arts and Sciences Faculty Affairs Committee and the Faculty Assembly.

The Committee is also reviewing policy on a) activities inconsistent with the terms of an SRG, b) the future of its role in the selection of Minor Research Grants, and c) the Freeman grant process.

*For FRC purposes, Area II includes Education, Law and Business as well as Arts and Sciences.