Report of the Faculty Research Committee, 2005-2006

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: Lisa Anderson (Economics), Bruce Bracken (Education), Davison Douglas (Law), Christopher Howard (Government), Richard Palmer (Theatre, Speech, and Dance), Abdul-Karim Rafeq (History), Gregory Smith (Applied Science), Barbette Spaeth (Classical Studies), William Stewart (Business Administration), Talbot Taylor (English), Nahum Zobin (Mathematics), and Dennis Manos (Vice Provost for Research, ex officio).

Currently, the FRC administers three faculty programs: Faculty Semester Research Assignments (FRAs), 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 a budget of $811,422. This total included the generous gifts of $20,000 from Susan Matthews to fund four SRGs, $68,000 from Dominion Resources to fund one FRA and ten SRGs, and $25,000 from the Christopher Wren Association to fund five SRGs. In addition, the Board of Visitors added $142,638 from the BOV Fund to augment the historical base from IDC, which this year totaled $623,000. Since FICA must be charged, $67,216 was reserved, leaving a total of $811,422 for allocation.

On November 29, 2005, the Committee reported to the Provost its recommendations for FRAs and SRGs for 2006-2007. A summary of that report is as follows:

(1) FRAs: the Committee received 49 applications and recommended the award of 39 FRAs.
(2) SRGs: the Committee received 52 applications and recommended the award of 39 SRGs.
(3) Book Subventions: there is one pending application, for around $1200; a subcommittee has been formed to consider this request and make recommendations to the Provost.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Torczon, Chair