

Report of the Faculty Research Committee, 2008-2009

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), Eric Bradley (Applied Sciences and Biology), William Cooke (Physics), John Donahue (Classics), Ram Ganeshan (Business Administration), Eric Kades (Law), Barbara King (Anthropology), Robin Looft-Wilson (Kinesiology), Graham Ousey (Sociology), Robert Scholnick (English), Carol Tieso (Education), 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.

This year the FRC received 40 very good proposals for Summer Research Grants. Due to this year's continuing budget issues, the administration did not give us a budget until January. We waited until the budget was clear before beginning evaluations. We decided that we would recommend reduced awards (\$4000 per SRG, rather than the normal \$5000) in order to provide some support for a larger fraction of the best proposals. We also recommended six proposals to be designated as Susan Matthews Summer Grants, receiving the originally planned \$5000 award. With these changes, we were able to recommend 24 grants in total, representing 60% of the proposals.

The FRC also decided to review the guidelines for next year's program. We clarified the call for proposals and removed some errors. We made one substantive change by deleting the bonus points previously awarded to past members of the FRC. We decided that the previous reward system was no longer necessary, now that Faculty Research Assignment proposals are no longer evaluated.

Respectfully submitted,
William Cooke, Chair