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2-10-2023

### Minutes, Faculty Research and Development Committee Meeting, Friday, February 10, 2023

Faculty Research and Development Committee

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**Approved Minutes**  
**College of Liberal Arts' Faculty Research & Development Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, February 10, 2023**  
**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**  
**Olin 319**

**Committee Members**

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The following colleagues were present:

Mike Gunter (*At-Large Rep*)  
Eric Smaw (*2021-22 Committee Chair & Humanities Division Rep*)  
Pavielle Haines (*Social Sciences Division Rep*)  
Janette Smith (*Non-Voting Member*)  
Nancy Chick (*Non-Voting Member*)  
Kara Wunderlich (*Social Sciences Applied Division Rep*)  
Ashley Kistler (*Non-Voting Member*)  
David Caban (*Business Division Rep*)

The following colleagues were not present:

Serina Haddad (*At-Large Rep*)  
Devon Massot (*Non-Voting Member*)  
Pamela Brannock (*Science & Mathematics Division Rep, Note Taker*)

**CALL TO ORDER**

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Mike Gunter called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM

**OLD BUSINESS**

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- I. The minutes from 1/27/23 were unanimously approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

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- I. The committee discussed the Critchfield Grants applications for Spring 2023. To maintain confidentiality and anonymity, no notes were taken on this part of the meeting.
- II. Mike Gunter suggested compiling longitudinal data on the amount funding available for various grants over time. Other members of the committee agreed that this would be useful.
- III. The committee discussed the FITI grants. As it currently stands, the FITI committee reviews the proposals and sends their recommendations to the FRDC for approval. The FITI committee has asked if the FRDC wants to provide feedback on the grants submitted this year.
  - A. Eric Smaw noted that the FITI is an all-college grant, which makes it outside the purview of the FRDC.
  - B. Mike Gunter suggested that the proper role of the FRDC with regards to FITI might be to review the proposals and make recommendations but allow the existing FITI committee to make the final decisions on funding. His logic was that the members of the FITI committee often don't have full-time classroom experience and therefore feedback from faculty on the FRDC committee could be helpful.
  - C. Nancy Chick noted that the original FRDC members stated that FITI was under their purview. Ashley Kistler noted that current bylaws place FITI grants under the purview of the FRDC.
  - D. Nancy Chick suggested that the FITI grants highlight the need to define the purpose of the FRDC. One possibility is that the FRDC should be focused solely on reviewing and approving grants. An alternative is that the FRDC should also offer assistance and developmental feedback on a wide range of awards, including those for which they do not make final decisions.
  - E. The FRDC unanimously agreed to review the FITI grants, but to leave the final decisions with the FITI committee.

- II. The committee discussed the timeline for completing decisions about awards.
  - A. Eric Smaw suggested that the final deadline for spring award decisions should be April 1<sup>st</sup>, to ensure that they occur before the final faculty meeting.
  - B. Mike Gunter suggested that the final deadline for fall award decisions should be mid-November to allow for planning in the spring and summer.
  - C. Nancy Chick noted that currently the deadline for FRDC giving their award recommendations to the Dean's Office is November 15<sup>th</sup> for the FYRST grant, December 15<sup>th</sup> for other grants, and April 1<sup>st</sup> for grants submitted in the spring.
  
- III. The committee discussed changes to the bylaws that would put the Bornstein and Cornell Distinguished Awards under the purview of the FRDC.
  - a. Mike Gunter read an email from Pamela Brannock noting that the Science & Mathematics Division opposed putting these awards under the purview of the FRDC. Their opposition stems from the fact that they believe that faculty who have already received these awards are in the best position to assess the merit of applicants. This is in stark contrast to conversations that have been had with Jana Matthews.
    - i. One committee member noted that this stance undermines the role and legitimacy of the FRDC moving forward. Another observed that members of the FRDC are elected by the faculty. He argued that the bylaws should empower the FRDC to review grants and awards.
    - ii. Another committee member noted that their concerns might stem more from concentrating power over awards, grants, and perks in one committee.
    - iii. Another committee member noted that the bylaws empower the FRDC to *make recommendations* to the appropriate administrator — not to *make decisions*. One committee member suggested there should be a formal appeals process.

- iv. Another committee member noted that all processes are politicized, but we should focus on establishing the most transparent and representative process.
  
- b. Ashley suggested allowing the awards to be decided using past processes for this year, since it is unlikely that this can be resolved in time.
  
- c. A discussion occurred as to whether to take vote on whether to endorse allowing the awards to be decided by the existing committees rather than the FRDC this year.
  
- d. The committee voted unanimously to let the awards be decided using past practices this year.
  
- e. The committee decided to postpone a vote on bringing our recommendations regarding these awards to allow more time for discussion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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Mike Gunter adjourned the meeting at 3:46 PM.