

Committee for Faculty Excellence Annual Report 2019-2020

The Committee for Faculty Excellence had an extremely busy year this year. As of the final general faculty meeting of the year, the committee awarded \$185,177.55 for projects in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and this was all awarded by March 9. At the committee's request, the Provost provided \$25,000 additional funds to TAPS as funds were low in January.

Approximately 138 grants were awarded to 135 faculty. The average grant was \$1,309.96. Of the grants awarded, approximately \$138,060.11 (74.6%) was awarded for domestic travel (includes Canada and Puerto Rico), \$36,215.44 (19.6%) was awarded for foreign travel, and \$10,878 (5.8%) was awarded for equipment, supplies, and publication costs. The vast majority were research projects (or combined research and service/teaching activities).

Some of the funded projects were later cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which led to cancellations of meetings and some research activities. Thirty-two (32) approved TAPS grants were cancelled due to COVID-19, totalling \$45,306.17; however, \$11,832.23 was still used of those funds to reimburse in cases of non-refundable expenses. I would like to sincerely thank Nancy Morrell for her diligence in navigating the TAPS budget during all of the cancellations.

For FY 2019-2020, the eligible amount for grants remained \$2,250 for domestic travel (including Canada). Faculty who are travelling internationally are eligible to apply for a total of up to \$2,750 to support their work. Early in the fall, there was a large update to Sharepoint for TAPS application submissions. Due to issues that still arise with Sharepoint, the committee will look into a potential replacement for Sharepoint during the next fiscal year.

In addition to TAPS grants, the committee reviewed and ranked a record of eight sabbatical proposals. Further, the committee reviewed four portfolios for the Service award. The committee also reviewed four portfolios for the Scholarly/Creative Pursuits award. The winners of these two awards will be announced at a faculty awards day in the near future.

Committee members for the 2019-2020 year included Shibly Sirajul (MEM), Matthew Donaldson (FACS), James Bunde (PSY), Courtney McDonald (SCW), Tina Herzberg (SOE- '20), Allison Ellis (HPPA), Steve Hyun (MCS), Grover Walters (INFO), Kendra Allison (SON), Andrew Kearns (LIB; past chair), Brock Adams (LLC; incoming chair), and Kimberly Shorter (NSE- '20; current chair). New members to the committee for 2020-2021 are Karen Lounsbury (SOE) and Anita Nag (NSE). I will serve in a "past chair" role during the next academic year since the committee began to use a new model of having a current chair, past chair, and incoming chair.

As exiting chair, I have produced a training document for incoming committee members as well as a second training document to assist the incoming chair. Further, I have constructed a calendar of duties for the committee chair to ensure a smooth transition, especially during these uncertain times.

The committee worked hard this year, and each member displayed their own dedication to teaching, scholarly, and service excellence. I am truly grateful to the committee members for their hard work!

Dr. Kimberly Shorter, Chair, Committee for Faculty Excellence