

## **COMMITTEE FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE FINAL REPORT 2020-21**

It goes without saying that this was an unusual year for Upstate and for the world in general. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many budgets were cut university-wide, and the budget for Teaching and Productive Scholarship Grants was no exception. Our budget was reduced by half, from \$144,750 to \$72,375. We adjusted maximum allowable funding to compensate: domestic travel and research maximums were reduced from \$2,250 to \$1,750, and the international travel maximum was reduced from \$2,750 to \$2,250.

Unfortunately for scholars but fortunately for the budget, nearly all academic conferences were converted to virtual formats this year; that, combined with the university's travel restrictions, meant that very little money was spent on travel and we were able to stay within budget. As of April 17, 2021, the Committee for Faculty Excellence has awarded fifty-one Teaching and Productive Scholarship Grants to thirty-eight faculty members and librarians; these grants were mainly used for research and for presentations at virtual conferences. A total of \$17,387.44 has been awarded, of which \$15,292.29 has been dispersed.

I will reiterate that the numbers above were greatly depressed by the pandemic and this year should be treated as an anomaly. As the world is slowly opening up, we have begun to receive TAPS applications from faculty for domestic and international travel. We anticipate that, as soon as the university's travel restrictions are lifted, the demand for travel funds will soar. Thus, the TAPS budget will need to return to its previous value (\$144,750) as soon as travel is permitted by the university.

The CFE continued to support faculty service and scholarship through our annual awards and review of sabbatical applications. After reviewing several applications, the committee was proud to honor Kimberly Land with the Annual Award for Faculty Excellence in Service and Dr. Wren Bareiss with the Annual Scholarly/Creative Pursuits Award. We also reviewed sabbatical proposals and recommended approval for Dr. Michelle Covington, Dr. Nolan Stolz, and Dr. Thomas McConnell.

Committee members for 2020-21 were Kelvin Wu, Matthew Placek, Scott Meek, Rob Sarver, Karen Lounsbury, Anita Nag, Steve Hyun, Kendra Allison, Drew Kearns, John Strandholm, Sirajul Shibly, Matthew Donaldson, and Grover Walters. The committee has elected Matthew Donaldson to serve as chair for 2021-22. As the outgoing chair, I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and their dedication to teaching, service, and scholarly excellence. I'd also like to thank Kim Shorter for her service and her invaluable advice as past chair.

Brock Adams, Chair, Committee for Faculty Excellence  
17 April 2021