

COMMITTEE FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE – End-of-Year Report 2021-22

MEMBERSHIP

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|----------|----------------------------|
| FACS | Matthew Donaldson (Chair)* |
| LLC | Brock Adams (Past-Chair) |
| MCS | Steve Hyun |
| LIB | Drew Kearns |
| SOE | Karen Lounsbury |
| PSY | Justin Travis |
| MBSN | Logan Camp-Spivey |
| NSE | Anita Nag |
| HPPA | Matthew Placek* |
| SCW | Rob Sarver |
| JCBE-MEM | Sirajul Shibly |
| JCBE-EFA | John Strandholm |
| IES | Grover Walters |
| HPH | Kelvin Wu |

**Matthew Donaldson will serve as Past-Chair during the 2022–23 year, and Matthew Placek will be the incoming Chair.*

TEACHING AND PRODUCTIVE SCHOLARSHIP (TAPS) GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Committee for Faculty Excellence once again operated on a reduced budget of \$72,375 (half of the standard \$144,750 budget) this year because of university-wide budget cuts and the impact of COVID on traveling to conferences, events, etc. COVID restrictions led to a significant reduction in the number of TAPS applications received by the CFE during the 2020–21 year. Fortunately, as the 2021–22 year has progressed, we have seen a reduction in COVID restrictions, which has led to more in-person conferences and an increase in TAPS applications and faculty travel. The increase in TAPS applications also led the committee to request additional funding. The Interim Provost provided \$20,000 in additional funding on January 27, 2022, bringing the total TAPS budget for the year to \$92,375.

During the 2021-22 year, the maximum allowable amounts for TAPS grants was \$1,750 for domestic travel/research and \$2,250 for international travel/research, which is still a \$500 reduction from the 2019-20 (pre-COVID) allowable amounts but consistent with the allowable amounts from 2020–21. These numbers may need to be reevaluated as we move forward in the 2022-23 year.

A total of approximately \$70,950.78 was awarded via 78 TAPS grants to 65 faculty members. The average total of each grant was \$909.63, which is still lower than the pre-COVID average of \$1,310 per TAPS application. This is largely due to 20 of the 69 conference presentations funded being virtual, which eliminated the need for flights, hotels, etc. Of the TAPS grants awarded, approximately \$53,802.45 (75.8%) was awarded for domestic travel and virtual conferences, \$4,500 (6.4%) was

awarded for foreign travel, and \$12,648.33 (17.8%) was awarded for equipment, supplies, and publications costs. The vast majority of grants awarded were for research projects.

ANNUAL AWARDS

The CFE reviewed three portfolios for the Faculty Excellence in Service Award and one portfolio the Faculty Excellence in Scholarly and/or Creative Pursuits Award. The winners of the awards are as follows:

- **USC Upstate Annual Award for Faculty Excellence in Scholarly and/or Creative Pursuits**
Mr. Brock Adams
- **USC Upstate Annual Award for Faculty Excellence in Service**
Dr. Melissa Pilgrim

SABBATICAL LEAVE

The CFE reviewed and ranked four sabbatical proposals, all of which were approved.

- Dr. Joshua Ruppel – Fall 2023 (previously Fall 2022, but deferred to Fall 2023)
- Dr. Araceli Hernandez-Laroche – Fall 2022
- Dr. Andrew Beer – Spring 2023
- Dr. Jack Cheng – Fall 2022

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Training documents and a calendar of duties have been prepared for the incoming Chair. Also, new committee members will have access to training documentation.

Matthew Donaldson
Chair, Committee for Faculty Excellence
29 September 2021