

Final Report
Professional Development Committee
Academic Year 2006-2007

The first meeting of the committee took place in the early part of the Fall semester where I was elected chair and Dr. Lee Ann Westman (Humanities) was elected Secretary. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, the secretary role was filled by Dr. Linda Plank (Business) for most of the academic year.

Due to the lower amount of funding compared to previous years, the committee decided to have only one funding cycle. In previous years with significantly more funding, this committee had two funding cycles; one in the Fall semester and one in the Winter semester. The funding level was part of significant conversation among the committee members. In retrospect, most of us agreed that the low submission turnout for this year was due to the belief by the faculty in general that the limited funds would decrease the chances of success. As a result, we believe many faculty members simply did not want to put the time into compiling an application with limited chance of funding.

The committee received four applications in total. One, from Dr. Jennifer Hagerman (Pharmacy) was submitted to the Faculty Research Committee, which passed it along to us. After reviewing it, our committee felt it was more appropriate that this proposal returned to the Research Committee, and after consulting with the Research Committee Chairman, it was returned to that committee. A second proposal, from Dr. Margaret de Voest (Pharmacy), was a resubmission from the previous year. Dr. de Voest made changes recommended by the committee from last academic year as a condition of funding. We decided to honor the previous committee's commitment, and upon confirmation that the requested changes we made, voted to fund her proposal. The third proposal was from Dr. David Marion (Business) and the committee requested changes. Dr. Marion made the requested changes and the proposal was recommended for funding. The final proposal, from Dr. Bahodir Siddikov, was not recommended for funding. Although the committee would like to commend Dr. Siddikov for the amount of effort he put into his project, his entire requested amount was for salary. The committee felt it not in the spirit of faculty development to award funds toward faculty salary.

For next year's committee, we would like to make one major recommendation. We would recommend to them to explicitly state in the announcement that faculty salary will not be funded. The feeling on this issue was very strong among the committee.

The committee and I would like to express our gratitude to Paula Hadley in the Academic Senate Office for her never ending assistance with questions and issues that we brought to her. Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the committee for their participation and assistance. My job as committee chairman was made much easier by having the opportunity to work with such outstanding members of our academic community.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike LaFontaine
College of Pharmacy