

Faculty Research and Publication Board (FRPB)
Final Report to the Senate
2016

Background and Membership: The Faculty Research and Publications Board (FRPB) is a representative faculty board that functions to encourage faculty research, publication, scholarly activities, and artistic productions, and to fulfill the duties assigned to it by the Board of Trustees of the University of Northern Colorado as set forth in the Board Policy Manual. FRPB voting membership currently consists of one faculty representative from each college; three additional faculty representatives elected at large; one faculty representative from the University libraries; one faculty representative selected by the Faculty Senate, and one graduate student representative selected by the President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA). Four non-voting advisory members are also named to the board, including the AVP for research or designee, the FRPB administrator, Academic Dean appointed by CAO, and the OSP Director or designee. Currently the AVP-R and OSP Director is a joint appointment for a single individual.

The board is charged with establishing criteria and reviewing applications for some of the internal funding programs available on our campus (see details below). Representatives are also tasked with assisting colleagues in their various colleges, schools or departments in proposal development or revisions. In addition, this board solicits nominations, reviews dossiers and votes for the A.M. & Jo Winchester Distinguished Scholar Award, which is presented to the recipient at a banquet held each spring. The board takes the peer review process quite seriously, and works diligently to publicize and apply consistent criteria to a diverse pool of proposals. The board makes an effort to treat proposals equally from all disciplines across campus, so as not to favor disciplines with consistent histories of external funding. The FRPB is also careful to inform faculty of the board's reasoning in cases where proposals are rejected. Over the past several years both the number and quality of proposals have dramatically improved. The workload has dramatically increased as well. FRPB service has become known as a way to develop skills in proposal development, gain a better understanding of the complex funding environment at UNC, and become familiar with the research of faculty colleagues cross the campus.

The FRPB chair during AY 2015/16 was Britney Kyle from HSS (elected to an at-large seat). The Vice-Chair was Nicholas Syrett (elected to the HSS seat). Voting members were: Abe Harraf (MCB); Diane Bolden-Taylor (PVA); Jane Monson (Libraries); John Luckner (at large); Nicholas Syrett (HSS); Britney Kyle (at large); Chelsie Hess (Graduate Student Rep); Corey Pierce (at large); Josh Packard (Senate Rep); Robert Walch (NHS); Kristina Phillips (CEBS). Non-voting Advisory members were: Robert Houser (Acting Vice President for Research / Director of Sponsored Programs); Ellen Gregg (Representative Dean); Sherry May (FRPB Administrator). FRPB program funds continue to be administered by Sherry May (OSP).

The board formally added the non-voting membership position of the FRPB administrator (currently Sherry May) during bylaws updates in 2014. This year, Sherry continued to be an invaluable resource during meetings, providing insight into the mechanics of receiving

proposals and administering funds. In addition, Sherry has been able to provide continuity to a board that sees regular turnover. The board greatly appreciates the time and attention to detail that Sherry brings to meetings and to the review process in general.

Funding Activity:

The board met nine times over the academic year to discuss and recommend policies related to internal funding, review grants and make awards. We reviewed 186 proposals (up from 142 in FY 14/15) and awarded 117 grants. Details of the awards are included in the tables below. Lists of successful grantees can be seen at the Office of Sponsored Programs SharePoint site.

Awards Distributed by Funding Round 2014-15

Program	# proposals	# awards	\$ requested	\$ awarded
Fall PAT (Provost Award for Travel)	45	30	78,976	51,039
Fall NPP (New Project Program)	11	6	41,751	27,082
Fall RDFD (Research, Dissemination and Faculty Development)	13	8	84,453	65,323
Winter PAT	52	28	112,311	49,839
Spring NPP	8	6	36,349	27,384
Spring RDFD	15	8	74,150	51,793
Spring PAT	42	31	88,839	71,086
TOTALS	186	117	516,829	346,052

Annual Totals for Each Program for 2013-2014

Fund	# proposals	# awards	\$ requested	\$ awarded
NPP	19	12	\$78,100	\$54,466
PAT	139	89	\$280,126	\$171,964
RDFD	28	16	\$158,603	\$117,116

Both the PAT (Provost Award for Travel) and the RDFD (Research, Dissemination and Faculty Development) awards remained highly competitive, and the quality of proposals continued to improve. Last year, an equal amount of funding was allocated for the RDFD and PAT programs. However, in an attempt to counteract the loss of ASATS, the FRPB decided to allocated \$160,000 to the PAT program and \$130,000 to the RDFD program. In the end, we distributed even more money to PAT proposals than we had initially allocated. We received significantly more PAT applications this year than last year (139 vs. 96). However, we received fewer RDFD applications (28 vs. 46). Thus, we distributed more funds to the PAT than RDFD program.

As board members we do our best to stay abreast of all developments related to funding for

scholarly activity on our campus so that we can explain the complex funding environment to faculty in our respective colleges who contact us regarding proposal development, and FRPB is generally positive about the overall increase in funding available on our campus. The board has worked especially hard throughout the past year to communicate pro-actively with faculty about the need to adhere very strictly to the published guidelines for each program we administer and to make a compelling case for the value of their activity not only to their own scholarship but to the wider university community; we also frequently refer faculty to other programs as appropriate.

Improvements were made to the website regarding information about competition deadlines, proposal guidelines, and the purpose of each competition. Throughout the year 27 were triaged due to non-compliance with posted guidelines. Consequently, a couple of Principal Investigators (PI's) provided helpful suggestions for clarifying the process of review. While we have made an effort to improve the clarity of the review process through online guidelines, FRPB leadership expects unforeseen interpretations by proposal submitters to provide opportunities to further improve these posted guidelines in the future.

Faculty continue to express concerns over the timing of the Provost Award for Travel (PAT) deadlines. PAT guidelines stipulate that each competition will consider travel only within certain dates (with flexibility at the discretion of the FRPB and with preference given to international travel beyond the posted travel dates). PAT review processes include consideration of acceptance of juried presentations or performances. Consequently, some faculty regularly travel to conferences whose dates fall within the range for one PAT competition, but the faculty often do not have confirmation of abstract acceptance or details of travel by the PAT deadline. The FRPB makes an effort to accept such proposals contingent on abstract acceptance. The FRPB also continues to have discussions and consider proposals early when the timing of the travel would make it difficult to make appropriate reservations after the proceeding PAT review. Ultimately, members of the FRPB acknowledge that there will be no universal PAT dates that will equally accommodate the various schedules of the many research disciplines across campus.

Loss of ASATS funding

The major event affecting FRPB decisions during FY 2015/16 was the loss of the Annual Scholarly Activity Travel Support (ASATS) funding through the Office of Sponsored Programs (although college monies were increased \$200 to make up for some of this loss). While the reasoning for the removal of the ASATS funding was sound, FRPB members are particularly concerned that this represents a move in the "wrong direction" for UNC. As additional professional activity is encouraged and expected, a greater amount of resources should be available for dissemination of research products. Many active disciplines do not have significant amounts of external funding available. Junior faculty may not have developed sufficient contacts and / or a history of external funding to support travel themselves. The FRPB believes that younger faculty and the disciplines with fewer options for external funding will be affected most by this decision.

Our concerns about the loss of ASATS were significant enough that FRPB leadership met

with Provost Wacker to request additional FRPB funds. Although we were not able to negotiate an increase in the FRPB budget, we came to a compromise. Previously unused FRPB award funds returned to the main UNC funding river. Henceforth, Sherry May, FRPB Administrator, will be able to reclaim these unused monies. The amount of unused money typically returned to the river is substantial (>\$20,000). The ability to reclaim these monies will effectively increase the FRPB budget and allow us to fund more faculty research and conference travel. The FRPB board is grateful that Provost Wacker was willing to work with us to help fund faculty RSCW.

Winchester Award Activity

The FRPB is also responsible for requesting nominations and selecting the recipient of the Winchester Award. This year we had seven nominations for the Winchester Award: Elysia Clemens (CEBS), Kenneth Chan (English), Gal Faganel (PVA), Joseph French (MCB), Mit McGlaughlin (NHS), Andrea Moon (PVA), and Jerry Suits (NHS). Although all the candidates were quite accomplished, many of the applicants were relatively early in their careers (we did not receive any applications from full professors), and ultimately the board felt that none of the applications rose to a level deserving of this prestigious award. However, many of the applicants had an impressive track record of early career success, and will likely receive the Winchester Scholar Award later in their careers.

The board was concerned that we were not attracting applications from senior faculty and full professors. We presume that senior faculty may not see enough incentive to put together the lengthy application required for the award. To better incentivize the award, we received permission from the Foundation to increase the award value from \$1500 to \$2000, and worked with the AVP for Research (Bob Houser) and Provost Wacker to create a permanent title change for Winchester Awardees: A.M. & Jo Winchester Distinguished Professor. Additionally, we updated the Winchester Guidelines and call for nominations. We hope that these changes will garner more high-quality applications next year.

Relationship to the Faculty Publication Fund Board

At the end of AY 2012/13, FRPB was involved in discussions with Teresa McDevitt regarding the need to provide funds for publication charges, which are increasingly required by prestigious journals in some disciplines, or as subventions for book publication. After consultation between our board and library faculty who are knowledgeable about publication trends, the Provost's Office decided to set aside \$30,000 of the total Provost Fund Allocation for this purpose (reducing the funding available to RDFD and PAT grants by the same amount).

Near the conclusion of FY 2014/15, the activity of the publication charges fund was re-evaluated, and a significant portion of the original \$30,000 was returned to FRPB. For FY 2015/16, the FRPB had \$290,000 available for allocation to RDFD and PAT competitions instead of the \$270,000 from the previous two years. This will continue in FY 2016/17

The FRPB, on behalf of all UNC faculty, would like to acknowledge the work of the

Provost's Office in making funds available for internal faculty awards. These funds allow faculty to develop proposal-writing skills, take the risk of developing new projects, travel to professional conferences, and engage in research and other scholarly activities that benefits UNC. We are also grateful for the excellent support provided by Ms. Sherry May and Dr. Robert Houser from the Office of Research, who make it possible for the board to function and who coordinate this very needed and useful program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Britney Kyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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