

## **Faculty Research and Publication Board (FRPB) Final Report to the Faculty Senate 2017**

**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 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 2016/17 was Nick Syrett (elected to the HSS seat). The Vice-Chair was Kristina Phillips (elected to the EBS seat). Voting members were: Diane Bolden-Taylor (PVA); Kenneth Chan (HSS – at large); Abe Harraf (MCB); Benjamin Kugler (Graduate Student Rep); John Luckner (EBS – at large); Jane Monson (Libraries); Tracey Gershwin Mueller (EBS – at large); Kim Murza (NHS); Kristina Phillips (EBS); Nicholas Syrett (HSS); and Kyle Ward (HSS; Senate Rep). Non-voting Advisory members were: Robert Houser (AVP for Research and Sponsored Programs); Ellen Gregg (Representative Dean); and Sherry May (FRPB Administrator). FRPB program funds continue to be administered by Sherry May and Jessica Dollard (Office of Research).

This year, Sherry May 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 ten times over the academic year to discuss and recommend policies related to internal funding, review grants and make awards. We reviewed 207 proposals (up from 186 in FY 15/16, though this did not include SSI applications) and awarded 148 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 2016-17**

<b>Program</b>	<b># proposals</b>	<b># awards</b>	<b>\$ requested</b>	<b>\$ awarded</b>
Fall PAT (Provost Award for Travel)	40	32	59,568	38,323
Fall NPP (New Project Program)	5	4	23,572	18,572
Fall RDFD (Research, Dissemination and Faculty Development)	21	10	142,004	57,857
Winter PAT	38	30	76,413	60,891
Spring NPP	7	7	34,528	34,528
SSI	31	17	180,426	126,977.06
Spring RDFD	20	12	130,326	78,100
Spring PAT	44	37	106,988	81,218
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>757,646</b>	<b>489,322.06</b>

**Annual Totals for Each Program for 2016-2017**

<b>Fund</b>	<b># proposals</b>	<b># awards</b>	<b>\$ requested</b>	<b>\$ awarded</b>
NPP	13	10	\$58,100	\$53,100
PAT	122	99	\$242,969	\$180,432
RDFD	41	22	\$272,330	\$135,957
SSI	31	17	\$180,426	\$126,977

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. The FRPB decided to divide the total of \$307,500 in the following manner: \$184,500 to the PAT program and \$123,000 to the RDFD program. In the end, and with the addition of funds reclaimed from last year (see discussion below), we distributed just over \$180,000 to PAT applicants and just over \$135,000 to RDFD proposals. By contrast, we did not have as many applications this year for the NPP program, which meant that we awarded about \$6,900 under the allotment given by the university (\$60,000 this year, in a fund that is separate from that awarded for SSI and RDFD/PAT).

This was also the first year that the FRPB took on the task of awarding the SSI awards (see

discussion below). We had almost double the number of applications we were able to award in this highly competitive round of funding, with the majority of applicants requesting summer salary support (in part, perhaps, because this is the only program that allows applicants to request funds for summer salary).

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 proactively 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 we eliminated approximately 20 applications from consideration by the whole board because they did not fill out the applications properly or were applying to the wrong program; this is down from last year, which is encouraging, but there are still applicants who do not follow instructions in the application procedures. 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.

### **Loss of ASATS funding and Recuperation of Unspent Monies**

Following the loss of the ASATS funding last year, the FRPB met with Provost Wacker and was able to secure a commitment to allow Sherry May to recuperate funds each year that were awarded but remained unspent from the prior year. This year we spent an additional \$9000 above the annual allotment from the university.

The FRPB remains concerned that the loss of ASATS funding still makes it difficult for faculty to travel to conferences—especially because \$1200 in college-allotted funds is rarely enough to cover the cost of an entire trip. As additional professional activity is encouraged and expected, a greater number 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.

### **SSI Applications**

For the first time the FRPB took on the responsibility of evaluating Summer Support Initiative applications. While the Research Advisory Council previously evaluated these applications, Bob Houser suggested that the FRPB was actually better suited to the task: we are an elected board representing all colleges and we already have a procedure in place for

the evaluation of research applications. We modified our spring schedule somewhat in order to accommodate an extra meeting and round of reading. The process went smoothly and while it did increase the board's workload somewhat, the number of other applications (NPP, PAT, RDFD) decreased this year, making the overall workload comparable to prior years. As a result of some confusion with the application, the FRPB also made some modifications to the application and guidelines that will remain in place for next year, when we expect that the FRPB will continue to evaluate SSI applications.

### **Winchester Award Activity**

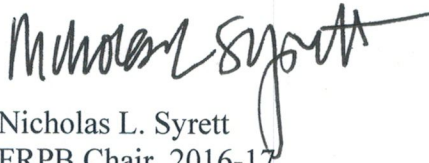
The FRPB is also responsible for requesting nominations and selecting the recipient of the Winchester Award. This year we had only three nominations for the Winchester Award: Mark Eiswerth (Economics), Flo Guido (HESAL), and Lei Weng (Music). Last year the FRPB opted not to give the award at all because the applicant pool was primarily comprised of people who were relatively early on in their careers. To try to encourage more applicants, the FRPB was able to secure a permanent title for the recipient: A. M. and Jo Winchester Distinguished Professor. We also allowed for electronic submission and increased the prize allotment from \$1500 to \$2000. Despite this change, the applicant pool actually shrank this year, and only one of the applicants was a full professor. Ultimately the FRPB decided to award the prize to Flo Guido, who delivered her acceptance remarks at the annual Winchester luncheon.

Next year we believe it would help the application process if college deans or department chairs were contacted early on in the process and encouraged to nominate their faculty, particularly those faculty who were honored the year before with college scholar awards.

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 Sherry May, Jessica Dollard, and Bob Houser from the Office of Research, who make it possible for the board to function and who coordinate this very needed and useful program.

At the final meeting, the board affirmed that Kristina Phillips, current Vice-Chair, will move into the position of Chair of the FRPB next year. Kim Murza was unanimously elected to the Vice-Chair position.

Respectfully submitted,



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