

Annual Report of the Faculty Research and Publication Board (FRPB) For Fiscal Year 2014-2015

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). Five non-voting advisory members are also named to the board, including the AVP for research or designee, the FRPB administrator, Representative of Academic Affairs, 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 2014/15 was Trent L. Lalonde from EBS (elected to the EBS seat). The Vice-Chair was Britney McIlvaine (elected to an at-large seat). Voting members were: Abe Harraf (MCB); Daine Bolden-Taylor (PVA); Sara O'Donnell (Libraries); Trent Lalonde (EBS); Nicholas Syrett (HSS); Britney McIlvaine (at large); Quintin Myers (Graduate Student Rep); Corey Pierce (at large); Kimberly Pacheco (Senate Rep); Robert Walch (NHS); John Luckner (at-large). Non-voting Advisory members were: Robert Houser (Acting Vice President for Research / Director of Sponsored Programs); Karen Turner (Representative Dean); Sherry May (FRPB Administrator). The Academic Affairs seat remained unfilled throughout the term. 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. Sherry has proved 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 eight times over the academic year to discuss and recommend policies related to internal funding, review grants and make awards. We reviewed 142 proposals and awarded 95 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)	22	15	45,516	29,646
Fall NPP (New Project Program)	9	2	40,697	9,960
Fall RFD (Research, Dissemination and Faculty Development)	12	6	75,059	45,614
Winter PAT	34	26	63,083	43,528
Spring NPP	7	2	30,430	9,797
Spring RFD	18	13	117,875	84,203
Spring PAT	40	31	85,793	64,688
TOTALS	142	95	458,453	287,436

Annual Totals for Each Program for 2013-2014

Fund	# proposals	# awards	\$ requested	\$ awarded
NPP	16	4	\$71,127	\$19,757
PAT	96	72	\$194,392	\$137,862
RFD	46	26	\$192,934	\$129,817

Both the PAT (Provost Award for Travel) and the RFD (Research, Dissemination and Faculty Development) awards remained highly competitive, and the quality of proposals continued to improve. To accommodate the increased requests for RFD grants to support new or continued research projects, the FRPB decided to split the \$270,000 allocation equally between these two types of grants. In the past a greater amount of funding has been allocated to the PAT competition. Given the recent changes in availability of travel funds from OSP, the FRPB is expected to revert back to allocating a greater percentage of FRPB funds to the PAT competition for AY 2015-16. It is expected that the increase seen in monetary requests throughout the year (from fall to winter to spring PAT competitions) will happen almost immediately (for the fall competition), so that all three PAT competitions will see high volume in the coming year.

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 a small number of proposals 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.

FRPB leadership recently discussed the issue of reimbursing travel costs using PAT funds when reservations were made prior to the PAT review. Previously FRPB has not awarded funds for any purchases made prior to the review. The reasoning is two-fold. First, funding is not seen as necessary when the purchases have already been made. Second, early purchases had been seen as a presumptuous "expectation" of acceptance by the FRPB. Neither line of reasoning seems particularly compelling. In fact, recent discussions have revealed that faculty often spend more money than is necessary by waiting for FRPB approval to make travel reservations. In the interest of saving money and therefore having additional funding available to support faculty travel, the FRPB will consider reimbursing travel purchases that have been made prior to PAT review. However, the FRPB will not reimburse travel that has already occurred by the time of the PAT review.

Loss of ASATS funding

The major event affecting FRPB decisions during FY 2014/15 was the notification that faculty would no longer have \$800 of ASATS funding available through the Office of Sponsored Programs. 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 also the disciplines with fewer options for external funding will be affected most by this decision.

The timing of the announcement of the loss of ASATS funding was problematic for the final round of the PAT competition. PAT guidelines require(d) that all faculty account for the available college and ASATS funds in proposals to ensure FRPB funds are used as the final internal option for travel funding. After accounting for the \$800 of ASATS funding, many faculty were upset to learn that the \$800 would not be available for travel after July 1. By the time the news of the removal of ASATS funds was made public, the FRPB had spent all allocated money for 2014/15. Fortunately, OSP has worked to ensure that those individuals who had already accounted for those funds in PAT applications would be compensated.

The loss of the ASATS funds should have a dramatic effect in terms of the proportion of funds allocated for travel by the FRPB. During FY 2014/15, for the first time the FRPB decided to allocate funds evenly between RDFD and PAT competitions. I suspect this will revert to previous proportions during FY 2015/16 to accommodate the loss of ASATS funds, and that more money will be allocated to PAT competitions than to the two FRPB competitions.

Winchester Award Activity

The FRPB is also responsible for requesting nominations and selecting the recipient of the Winchester Award. This year we had five nominations for the Winchester Award: Elysia Clemens (EBS), Anton Dzhamay (NHS), Joseph French (MCB), Richard Hyslop (NHS), and William Douglas Woody (EBS). Dr. Woody was selected as the recipient for 2015, though all candidates were impressive scholars.

The board included information about the \$1500 stipend in the request for nominations this year. The board also discussed a number of possible modifications to the nomination process, including adding a requirement that each college dean forward one nominee to the FRPB, and also relaxing the requirement of 2" binders for submission. FRPB leadership expects Winchester Award materials to be available online within the next few years.

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. 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 AY 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 will have \$290,000 available for allocation to RDFD and PAT competitions instead of the \$270,000 from the previous two years.

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 Sponsored Programs, who make it possible for the board to function and who coordinate this very needed and useful program.

Respectfully submitted,

Trent L. Lalonde, PhD
FRPB Chair 2014-2015
Associate Professor of Applied Statistics
trent.lalonde@unco.edu
Campus Box 124; 970-351-2702