

## **Request for Proposals for One Year Center Planning Grants**

The Provost's Office will continue to fund one-year planning grants for additional Centers. Each of these one-year planning grants (of up to \$50,000 each) should be used to develop and submit a five-year plan for a new Center. The first six Center planning grant awards were made in summer of 2008 and announced in the Provost's Sept 5, 2008 newsletter (<http://www.wfu.edu/provost/newsletter/index.html>). Six planning grants were also announced and awarded over the 09/10 academic year and one additional planning grant was awarded in the summer of 2010 ([http://provost.wfu.edu/16.160.1/One\\_Year\\_Center\\_Planning\\_Grants](http://provost.wfu.edu/16.160.1/One_Year_Center_Planning_Grants)).

The University envisions that Centers will enable faculty to accomplish scholarship and creative work that they otherwise could not have accomplished without reaching out to other scholars or artists for additional insight, inspiration, and assistance. Centers should help build the academic reputation of the institution in the focus area of the Center and they should build intellectual community and engagement among faculty and students. Once Centers are started they should have a spillover effect in attracting and mentoring new members with interests that can mesh with, and enhance, Center programs.

Successful Centers will engage faculty and students across disciplines, departments and/or schools, and attract funding and scholars from both Wake Forest and other institutions. They will be led by interdisciplinary faculty teams. A working definition of "interdisciplinary" is: two or more academic, scientific, or artistic disciplines that each bring a unique perspective to the scholarly or creative focus of the Center.

A critical facet of the application is to clearly define the topics or questions that will be addressed by Center faculty and to demonstrate why the faculty members identified in the application are uniquely qualified to conduct research on the proposed topics or address the proposed questions. The application should provide a compelling argument that if the Center is funded the University will get more than the sum of the individual faculty parts.

The proposal must address the following question: What will you do together and what important topics or questions will you address if the Center is funded that will not and cannot be addressed without this funding?

Topics that should be addressed in the proposal are: What will the faculty group do together that is different from, and supplementary to, what they are currently doing individually, and what important topics or questions will be addressed if a full 5 year Center is funded? If the topics or questions to be addressed are not fully developed, the proposal must provide the details of how this will be accomplished in the one year planning phase.

Applications for Center Planning Grants should contain:

1. The proposed Center title;
2. a brief description (no more than two pages) of the intellectual focus and mission of the Center and of how the Center will advance the subject (both on and off campus) and teaching/research or creative work;
3. names and affiliations of the principal WFU faculty (no more than four faculty) proposing the Center, with a two-page CV on each; The proposed Center director must be a tenured faculty member;
4. names and affiliations of others who have agreed to be major participants if funded;

5. a plan for how the four critical Center success factors (described in the Guidelines for Formation of Centers document) will be determined, evaluated and developed over the year of the planning grant (no more than four pages); and
6. the proposed budget for the planning year. Eligible budget items include travel and (if necessary) modest honoraria for visitors, budgets for proposed site visits/workshops/seminars to determine best practices; and a course release for one member of the research team to lead the development of the full five-year Center operational plan. These budgets are expected to comply with academic year salary and additional compensation policies posted on the ORSP web site (<http://www.wfu.edu/rsp/policies.html>).
7. The completed planning grant application should be submitted electronically to [wagnera@wfu.edu](mailto:wagnera@wfu.edu) in the office of the Provost by 5 p.m. on the last Friday in May. These proposals are reviewed by an ad hoc committee that includes members of the Research Advisory Council (membership can be found at <http://www.wfu.edu/rsp/office.html>) who have no conflict of interest with the submitted proposals. If a conflict of interest between a proposal and a sitting RAC member is identified, then a replacement representative from that division of the college or school is appointed by the Provost to review these proposals. Announcement of awards will be made in July.