

Subject: [Faculty-best] Newsletter

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To: <faculty-best@lists.wfu.edu>, <faculty-calloway@lists.wfu.edu>, <faculty-divinity@lists.wfu.edu>, <faculty@mba.wfu.edu>, "LawFaculty" <LawFaculty@wfu.edu>

CC:

Dear Colleagues,

In this issue of the newsletter, I am pleased to announce funding for FY09 strategic academic initiatives. Because there is not sufficient funding to meet all requests, the proposals were prioritized on the basis of their capacity to advance one of the University's five strategic priorities and to sustain academic excellence overall. Ranging from more travel funds for all faculty to an increased budget for the Teaching and Learning Center, these awards represent our academic values. It is gratifying and exciting to offer these new forms of support.

This issue also conveys news about other changes that advantage faculty across the board. As you read this information, please bear in mind that decisions about requests for capital funding will be announced in April.

In closing, it is my great pleasure to recognize the effort of all who submitted proposals, reviewed requests, conducted studies and made the other contributions that are described in this newsletter. For your hard work and enthusiastic investment in our future, I am more grateful than you can know.

With warm regards,

Jill Tiefenthaler
Provost

New Support to Enhance Faculty Distinction

Provost Fund for Faculty Travel

There were many requests for increased funding for conference and other research-related travel. In response, beginning in the 2008/09 academic year, each faculty member will be eligible for up to \$1000 more in research-related travel funds. The Provost's Office is supporting this increase to enhance faculty distinction and meet widespread need. Tenured or tenure stream faculty members will be eligible for the funds when they participate in an academic conference (by presenting or discussing a paper or chairing a session) or conduct other research-related travel the department chair or dean approves. These funds are intended to be supplementary and, therefore, can be accessed only after a faculty member has used his or her allotment from the department or school. In May, see <http://www.wfu.edu/provost> for information about how to access this travel support.

Fund for Academic Excellence

The Provost's Office is pleased to announce a new Fund for Academic Excellence. The fund will provide a 2:1 match to bring speakers, workshops, and visiting scholars and artists to campus, thus contributing to our strategic priorities of building community, connecting to communities beyond campus, and enhancing faculty distinction.

From the many requests that prompted the establishment of this fund, we anticipate supporting visits from

researchers, authors, and artists who will interact with Wake Forest faculty and students to address emerging issues across a wide range of fields. The goal is to showcase knowledge production and the pedagogical and creative work of our scholars, and boost or establish cooperative intellectual efforts. Proposals that involve collaboration across departments, interdisciplinary programs and schools are especially encouraged. The strongest proposals will aim to:

- facilitate intellectual exchange between our faculty and between faculty and students, especially across departments, programs and schools;

- lead to wider recognition for the academic excellence of our faculty; and

- target scholarly themes and emerging problems that complement the current academic scholarly interests and pedagogical innovations of our faculty.

We anticipate making commitments of up to \$150,000 to this fund for the 2008/09 academic year. There will be two proposal review periods for 2008/09. Proposals submitted by April 25, 2008 will be awarded in May. Proposals submitted by August 30, 2008

will be awarded in September. An interdisciplinary committee with representatives from across the university will review proposals. Please contact Michele Gillespie, Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Completed applications should be submitted either as hard copy to the office of the Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, 204 Reynolda Hall, or electronically to hallsted@wfu.edu, by 5 p.m. on April 25, 2008. Please see www.wfu.edu/provost for details.

Increased Support for the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)

In accordance with the strategic plan, the TLC's annual budget will be doubled in 2008/09 to expand its reach to all schools on the Reynolda campus, grow its initiatives for sharing pedagogical innovations and best practices, orient new faculty to Wake Forest's teacher-scholar model, and develop training opportunities for graduate students. As an example, this past week, the TLC sponsored a highly successful inaugural Teaching and Learning Fair, where faculty shared their best practices, introduced emerging new curricular tools, and explored multiple pedagogic approaches.

By helping faculty share expertise across disciplines, supplying mentors to new teacher-scholars and providing one-on-one support to those who want to build their teaching skills, the TLC advances excellent teaching—a hallmark of a Wake Forest education. The Provost's Office is pleased to increase funds to the TLC and looks forward to collaborating with the TLC to provide the training and resources that support excellent teaching.

Faculty Research Centers Call for Proposals

To advance our strategic priority to increase national recognition for academic programs, the Provost's Office will fund planning efforts for up to four new research centers in 2008/09 by awarding one-year planning grants of up to \$50,000.

Successful centers will build on existing academic strengths and interests, increase the level of research and creative work that is underway, enhance the academic reputation of the University, and attract new funding and new faculty as the centers mature. Typically such centers focus their efforts on problems that require interdisciplinary approaches to solutions and have cross-departmental affiliations. The faculty groups who receive these planning grants will be expected to submit a five-year operational plan for a new research center by May 2009.

The completed planning grant application, available on the Provost Office's website, should be submitted

electronically to hallsted@wfu.edu

by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 2008. The Research Advisory Committee will review all proposals and make funding recommendations to the Provost. Announcement of awards will be made in the summer. For further details, see the Request for Proposals for Center Planning Grants at www.wfu.edu/provost.

Targeted Funds for other Strategic Initiatives

Undergraduate Research Center

In response to the College Strategic Plan and building off the success of the Undergraduate Research Symposium held in the fall of 2007, funding in the amount of \$50,000 will be provided to the College for the funding of an Undergraduate Research Center that will support undergraduate research, including scholarly and creative collaborations between students and faculty. These funds will be used for faculty stipends, administrative support, website development, publication of a departmental honors booklet, and the undergraduate research symposium.

Funding for Post-doc Program

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has requested funds to jump-start a University-wide postdoctoral scholars program. In response, \$25,000 has been allocated to support programming and a part-time faculty director for post-doctoral affairs in the Graduate School. A first class post-doctoral scholars program will increase collaboration and research synergies between those who visit Wake Forest and our tenure-stream faculty and enhance Wake Forest's reputation as a place committed to the training of excellent teacher-scholars.

Department Working Group Established to Attract a Diverse and Gifted Student Body

Six departments—Music, Computer Science, Philosophy, Math, Physics, and Theatre and Dance—will be invited to form a working group to brainstorm and implement new programs to attract diverse and gifted students interested in these disciplines to Wake Forest. Some of the ideas from their strategic funding proposals included developing an interactive electronic kiosk to showcase students and faculty, awarding scholarships to North Carolina High School award winners, and improving department websites to highlight student opportunities and outcomes. The Provost will chair the working group of department representatives and administrators (admissions, financial aid, communications, etc.). Successes from these pilot programs will be shared with other departments and schools.

Increase in Library Funding for Diverse Research and Curriculum

As faculty research interests and the curriculum become more global and diverse, it is important for the library's collection to grow in support of these efforts. While the Z Smith Reynolds Library's acquisition budget allows for growth of the collection annually, a one-time infusion of funds to grow our holdings in these critical areas of study is necessary. Therefore, an additional \$50,000 will be allocated to the library's acquisition budget in 2008/09 with the specific purpose of building our collection in area studies (including Latin America, China, Africa, South Asia and the Middle East) and diversity studies (including African American Studies, Latino Studies and Gay and Lesbian Studies). Faculty with research and teaching interests in these areas are asked to send their requests for acquisitions to Scott Adair, Monograph Manager at the ZSR Library at adairjs@wfu.edu. Thanks to the History Department for highlighting this need.

Funds for Curricular Innovations

Several schools and departments requested start-up funds for planning and piloting new academic programs. The following proposals will be funded in 2008/09.

The English Department will receive \$20,000 to investigate the creation of an interdisciplinary writing program for the College.

The Calloway School will apply \$20,000 to pilot a leadership seminar and developmental experience for a small class of Calloway seniors. The lessons learned will be used to develop a new curriculum for all Calloway School business majors.

The Religion Department will receive \$15,000 to study the leading graduate programs in Religion, including their structure, relation to other academic programs and funding models.

The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences will use \$25,000 to support faculty workshops, consultant visits, and targeted support services to coordinate the planning and submission of applications for one or more new PhD programs.

The Dance Program will receive \$20,000 to enhance the curriculum through hiring additional accompanists and adjuncts for their ballet and modern dance technique classes.

Women's and Gender Studies will receive \$5000 to study the best practices of highly successful major and graduate programs.

The Divinity School will receive \$15,000 to support the development of cross-disciplinary programs with the potential for joint degrees, interdisciplinary seminars, and certification programs.

The Chemistry Department and the Math Department will each receive \$20,000 in funding to establish centers or clinics (modeled after the Writing Center) to provide additional academic support to undergraduate students.

Initiatives to Connect with Communities beyond Campus

Several schools and departments requested funds to pilot new initiatives to connect with the local and regional communities and alumni. The following proposals will be funded in 2008/09.

The University Theatre will receive \$15,000 to undertake a joint production with a local theatre or university.

The Anthropology Department will use \$13,500 to build relationships with local and regional Latino, African American, and Native American communities. The goals are to strengthen and forge synergistic relationships for collaborative grant-writing and research and to identify key sites for future public engagement.

The Chemistry Department will receive \$7500 to establish a Chemistry Alumni Advisory Group.

The Education Department will use \$2000 to conduct an online survey of its alumni in order to guide them in making on-going improvements in their programs.

The Divinity School

will apply \$10,000 to expand relationships with and opportunities for alumni, churches, denominational judicatories and community agencies.

The WFU Press will receive \$12,500 in funding to better highlight its publications to national and international audiences.

Other News

Guest House Planned for Visiting Scholars and Artists

In the fall, the Carlyle House at 101 Belle Vista Court (off Easley Drive on campus) will become a guest house for short-term visiting scholars and artists. With slight modifications, the house will offer three suites with a common kitchen and living/dining room. Each suite will have a bedroom, sitting room and full bath.

Separate accommodations are being considered for resident scholars or artists who are visiting for longer terms and who may have family accompanying them. To host visiting scholars and artists as well as academic conferences, additional funds will be available to help departments defray expenses at Graylyn for short-time visitors and for hosting events there. Look for details in August.

Professor Timothy Houle Wins the Nathan and Julie Hatch Prize

The Provost's Office is pleased to announce that Professor Timothy Houle, Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the School of Medicine, is this year's recipient of the inaugural Nathan and Julie Hatch Prize for Faculty Development. This new award recognizes the scholar whose project shows the most promise to benefit from a week of sustained research and writing at the renowned Bodleian Library. Robert Conway, Harris Manchester College Board Member, gave the award in honor of Nathan and Julie Hatch.

Professor Houle will join several dozen other scholars from around the world and multiple disciplines from June 29 to July 6, 2008 at Harris Manchester College. He plans to use Bodleian resources—particularly ancient and early modern physicians' writings on migraines—to historicize and re-think headache classifications and their limitations in contemporary medicine.

The next deadline for this faculty development award will be February 15, 2009. For more information on the award contact Michele Gillespie, Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, 204 Reynolda Hall, and see <http://www.hmc.ox.ac.uk/>.

Space Utilization Study Illuminates Need

After 12 months of data collection and analysis, the 2007 Space Utilization Study is complete. Designed to present details about academic space on the Reynolda Campus and how it is used, the study reviewed department level data for all schools and colleges, administrative, and other support units. In all, over 924,800 assignable square feet (ASF) were assessed. The study did not assess space assigned to student life, dining, recreational sports, or athletic performance.

The study showed that while space for classrooms and instructional labs is sufficient to support the current curriculum, we lack sufficient space for offices, library collections, research, and various forms of support. In addition, our process for using classrooms efficiently could be improved. It is important to note that the study did not address the quality of academic space. Through the strategic planning and campus master planning processes, significant renewal projects for many facilities are in place.

Because the report includes an analysis of space needs for any future undergraduate enrollment increase, it will guide our efforts to finalize the Strategic Plan and develop a new campus Master Plan. See <http://groups.wfu.edu/masterplan/index.html> for a full report. Please direct comments and questions to Jim Alty or Mike Draughn of Facilities Management at 758-4623.

Thank you for your attention to this newsletter. The Provost's Office seeks your comments, suggestions, and ideas for its continued development. To comment or suggest items to include, please be in touch with Provost Tiefenthaler at jmt@wfu.edu.

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