University Enrichment Committee Final Report
2012-2013

2012-2013 UEC Membership:
David Andresen (chair Spring 2013), Sunil Kukreja (ex officio), Danny McMillan, Dawn Padula, Wayne Rickoll, Justin Tiehen, Carl Toews, Stacey Weiss (chair Fall 2012).   Student Members: Molly Brown, Gabe Davis

The Senate Charges to the 2012-2013 University Enrichment Committee in addition to the committee's regular business were:

1. Examine the existing allocation structure for UEC funding (particularly faculty research and conference participation) and if necessary, consider reallocating funds or making a Budget Task Force proposal for increased allocations.

2. Determine how the UEC might shift its role in providing oversight of faculty conference travel requests in light of the university's move to a P-card system.

3. Investigate the logistics of going to a per diem for food during travel for the university.

4. Determine if a faculty research award could be established for junior faculty, much like the Phibbs award serves the established faculty member.

5. Discuss and implement ways to promote visibility and awareness of UEC funds, deadlines, opportunities and awards amongst students and faculty.

Committee Actions Regarding Usual Duties Related to Travel, Research, and Release Time Awards

1. Faculty Travel Funding
        As of April 19 2013, the UEC has received a total of 94 travel requests for a total of $101,309 in total. Note that this total does not reflect total amount actually reimbursed as some approved and completed trips are still pending submission of paperwork. The allocation for the faculty travel funding is $93,000 from BTF plus $10,000 carry-over from last year for $103,000 total.

2. Faculty Research Funding
        The committee received 16 applications this year (9 in the fall and the remaining 7 in the spring) and all were funded fully or in part for a total of $21,832. The mean award per grant was $1485. The faculty research funding available was

$20,756: $16,000 from the yearly allocation from BTF and $4756 from the Phibbs endowment earnings.

3. Release Time Requests

The committee received 10 applications and awarded six release units for the 2013-2014 academic year.

4. Student Research and Travel Funding

The committee received a total of 103 applications for student research and travel funding, up again this year from 97 applications last year, 94 the year before, and prior years' averages of 60-70.

The committee received 47 travel grant applications to date, which is nine more than last year and cost an additional $4,500 of our student budget that was not expected. A total of $23,120 was awarded (average award: $491).

The UEC also received 56 student research grant applications this academic year. The 32 fall research awards totaled $10,341 (average award: $323), whereas the 24 spring applications totaled $7,400 (average award: $352). The UEC had to cut the budgets of the Spring requests considerably to accommodate our budget of only $7,500 (given the unexpectedly high number of student travel grant costs).

We are allocated $27,500 from BTF, and with a $10,000 carry-over from last year we had $37,500 total to allocate for student research and travel awards.

5. Cultural Currency Travel Funds

No applications for travel related to cultural currency were received.

6. Trimble Asian Studies Professional Development Awards

The committee received four applications and all were funded. The budget for the Trimble Awards is $25,000.

7. Selection of the Regester Lecturer for 2013

Five nominated candidates turned in materials to be considered for the 2014 Regester Lecturer. The committee is currently reviewing these materials and the selection of Regester Lecturer will be completed during our May 3, 2013 UEC meeting.

8. Selection for the Dirk Andrew Phibbs Memorial Award

The committee is currently reviewing candidates for the Phibbs Award and selection will be completed during our May 3, 2013 UEC meeting.

Committee Actions Regarding Senate Charges

1. **Examine the existing allocation structure for UEC funding (particularly faculty research and conference participation) and if necessary, consider reallocating funds or making a Budget Task Force proposal for increased allocations.**

With the steady increase in faculty and student travel and research grant applications, the UEC has solicited UEC funding data covereing the past several years to develop a proposal for increased allocations from the BTF. However, the acquisition of this data has been significantly delayed due to the current transition to PeopleSoft and this item is part of our recommendations for next year's committee.

2. **Determine how the UEC might shift its role in providing oversight of faculty conference travel requests in light of the university's move to a P-card system.**

Again, the transition to PeopleSoft has made discussion on this matter difficult until we learn how the new software will allow us to handle reimbursement versus P-card approach to travel expenses.

3. **Investigate the logistics of going to a per diem for food during travel for the university.**

The UEC feels that a per diem food allowance is preferable to a receipt-based system. However, the transition to PeopleSoft financials has made progress on this issue difficult without knowing the details of how the new software will handle travel expenses.

4. **Determine if a faculty research award could be established for junior faculty, much like the Phibbs award serves the established faculty member.**

The UEC made significant progress with respect to a Faculty Scholarship Award. The UEC envisions at least one scholarship award for pre-tenure and at least one award for post-tenure faculty. Currently, no money is available for these awards, but the UEC hopes to see a monetary component associated with these awards in the future. The UEC sent a proposal for the Faculty Research Award to Dean Bartanen who forwarded the proposal to the FAC. The UEC then received feedback from the FAC suggesting more concrete criteria, and the UEC drafted more specific criteria for the award and are preparing to forward this again to Dean Bartanen and the FAC. The UEC had hoped to have this award be part of the Fall Faculty Dinner in 2013, but realistically the awards would not be presented until Fall 2014.

5. **Discuss and implement ways to promote visibility and awareness of UEC funds, deadlines, opportunities and awards amongst students and faculty**

The UEC had several discussions regarding this charge and thought that the Faculty Scholarship Award was a particularly effective way to increase visibility of the work of the UEC.

In addition, we are planning to meet with those involved with the CWLT to incorporate the faculty research grant awardees into "Wednesday at 4" activities such as the scholarship celebration.

Finally, we discussed updating the UEC webpage to be more user-friendly for those seeking forms and deadlines for UEC funding opportunities, as well as to list funded projects. Again, the transition to PeopleSoft has made it necessary for staff in charge of university web pages to work on more critical matters at this time. We will place this item back onto the recommendations for the UEC next year.

Recommendations for Next Year's Committee:

1. Develop a request for increased funding from the BTF given the increase in both faculty and student research and conference travel requests. Thus far, faculty travel data shows that the $93,000 from BTF has only covered the travel expenses in two academic years of the last 6, the average shortfall is $19,000, and the trend in conference travel expenses is clearly increasing over time (roughly $3000 increase per academic year given a simple linear model). Additional data is needed for other aspects of the request such as faculty and student research grants.

2. Investigate the logistics of going to a per diem system for food during travel for the university and how this may be implemented with current and future versions of PeopleSoft.

3. Determine how the UEC might shift its role in providing oversight of faculty conference travel requests in light of the university's move to PeopleSoft and a P-card system.

4. Continue to develop and implement the UEC Faculty Scholarship Award. The FAC asked for more specific criteria for evaluation of scholarly activities, and the UEC has written a response to these concerns and should be forwarded to them again (through Dean Bartanen) for additional feedback.

5. Work to promote UEC grants, deadlines, and vision of promoting faculty and student scholarship. Schedule a meeting with those in the CWLT (such as Julie Nelson Christoph and Eric Orlin) to discuss effective ways to promote UEC funding opportunities and scholarship, such as having a Faculty Research Grant "Wednesday at 4," or make the Scholarship Celebration be less about publications and more about current research and involve recipients of Faculty Research Grants. Continue to consider a more effective UEC webpage that serves to provide grant and deadline information, as well as promote scholarship through abstracts or summaries of UEC-funded student and faculty research.

6. Investigate ways to streamline UEC student research grant application submission for students who already apply for summer research funding.

Math and Science student summer research applications are very similar to the application used for the UEC student research grants. Andreas Madlung (current Math & Science grant supervisor) suggested that summer applications that are funded be forwarded directly to the UEC instead of the usual slight re-formatting and printing out of the entire application before submitting to the UEC for up to $500 of research funds. The UEC should discuss how to implement this system with Andreas. The UEC should also consider whether the AHSS summer research grants might be able to use a similar system.