

University Enrichment Committee
September 7, 2005

Present: Rob Beezer, Derek Buescher, John Finney, Gregory Groggel, Kristen Hiefiel, Lisa Johnson, Sunil Kukreja, Aislinn Melchoir, Eric Scharrer, David Smith, Tanya Stambuck, Ted Taranovski, Jerry Yonkman

Finney called the meeting to order shortly after 8:00 AM and presided over the selection of Secretary and Chair. Smith was selected as Chair and Buescher was selected as Secretary.

Subcommittee assignments were made as follows.

Faculty Research: Beezer, Buescher, Finney, Johnson, Kukreja, Taranovski
Undergraduate Student Research: Finney, Groggel, Hiefield, Melchoir, Sharrer, Stambuck, Yonkman
Graduate Student Research: Elliot, Erving, Finney, Kelly, Reinitz, Smith

Semester meeting times were discussed. The committee will continue to meet in the Wednesday 8am time block.

Finney presented an overview of the year's tasks. In addition to distributing travel and research monies, we will select a recipient of the Dirk Andrew Phibbs Award and select the Register Lecturer for Fall 2007. Mott Green will give the 2005 Register Lecture on November 16 at 8pm. Sue Owen is the Register Lecturer in 2006.

Smith solicited additional topics for the committee to address in 2005-2006. The list follows:

- Review past-chair Amy Ryken's report on the sub committee operation process and finalize a process of review
- Continue investigation of UEC webpage designed to provide student's with information and transparency on the grant application process and a history of awarded student research and travel grants.
- Evaluate near and long term trends in student conference travel. Recent years have suggested an upward trend. A continuation of this trend is likely to impact distribution of grant monies. The committee will develop a proposal for the BTF and explore additional funding options.

With the agenda discussed, Finney reported on the state of travel funds available for the committee to fund faculty travel. In the academic years 2004-05, 93 travel grants were awarded. By August 31, 2004 59% of the travel budget was already awarded. After a notice to faculty that second trips for conference participation may not be funded, applications for first trips tapered and monies were remaining to fund a comparatively reduced number of second trips. As of August 31, 2005 the UEC has funded 15 trips and 80% of the budget remains. Finney also reported that the BTF approved last year's proposal for an additional \$7,000 for the faculty travel budget. This money will be

divided to increase coverage of hotel and food expenses (from \$110.00/night to \$125.00/night) and ground transportation (to \$40.00).

Finney then raised an issue of student travel regarding students who co-author work for presentation and students who apply for funding more than once in the academic stay with Puget Sound. An extensive discussion ensued regarding the purpose of student travel. Scharrer commented that student travel serves a different function than faculty travel noting that student travel is designed for educational purposes and faculty travel for research purposes. Taranovski inquired about judging the work as a factor in grant. Finney noted such a process would require a committee review that would further require set deadlines. The current process of rolling applications, Finney and Scharrer argued, better suits students who may not know of acceptance until late in terms or just prior to travel.

Finney mentioned the guidelines for student travel applications were altered so that students are required to submit applications *prior* to their travel. The committee decided to investigate the trends of student travel.

Taranovski inquired about regional award announcements.

Meeting adjourned just before 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek Buescher, Secretary