

University Enrichment Committee
February 9, 2005
Minutes

Present: Ethan Allured, Rob Beezer, Derek Buescher, George Erving, John Finney, Diane Kelley, Mark Reinitz, Amy Ryken (Chair), Eric Scharrer, David Smith, Jeff Tepper, Jerry Yonkman.

Ryken brought the meeting to order shortly after 8:00 A.M.

Ryken reminded the committee that we would conduct the annual selection of the Register Lecturer at our next meeting, March 23 and that candidates had been identified through nominations.

ACTION The minutes of October 20, 2004 were approved without changes.

Finney reported that the Budget Task Force had recommended to the President a \$7,000 increase in the funds available for the committee to award for faculty travel. The request for this permanent increase was based on a \$60 increase in the maximum allowed for the combined amount of conference registration and lodging, and a \$10 increase in the maximum allowed for local transportation. If the recommendation is approved by the Board of Trustees, the new limits will be a maximum total of \$1350 for domestic travel and \$1570 for international travel.

Two applications for faculty released time were received by the February 1 deadline. Copies of the proposals had been distributed to members of the committee in advance, and the proposals were discussed by the committee.

ACTION Reinitz moved, Smith seconded, passed by unanimous acclamation:
Both applications for faculty release units are approved.

Since five release units are available for the committee to award, discussion ensued about the disposal of the remaining three. There was also a single release unit, a Culpepper grant for the use of technology, that had no applications. Since coverage of released units is tied to availability of replacement faculty, staffing levels within departments, and enrollments, it was felt improbable that the remaining three could be "rolled over" for next year.

ACTION Kelley moved, Yonkman seconded, passed by unanimous acclamation:
John Finney will announce to the faculty a second round of funding for the four remaining release units, with a March 1 application deadline. These proposals will be considered at the March 23 meeting of the committee.

Ryken presented the idea of posting student research awards on a web page. This idea being initially proposed by Tepper, he elaborated. There was discussion about how such a page might look, its purpose, and its contents and location. Generally the committee was in favor. Ryken formulated the consensus that the committee was "in favor of the creation of web page listing student research and travel awards, especially directed at prospective students, with its prominence on the university web site being of special interest to the committee." Finney's office will work to create a sample page for the committee to view before posting globally.

Finney updated the committee about the health of the travel fund. Currently the situation is not as dire as it appeared in early fall, though expenditures are still running ahead of the previous year. It is an open question if funds will remain for the funding of second trips after the May 15 deadline for funding first trips.

Meeting adjourned around 8:45 AM.

Next meeting will be March 23, 2005.

Rob Beezer
Secretary