

COMMITTEE: Teaching Grants

MEETING DATE: March 16, 2022; 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

PERSON PRESIDING: Armin Krishnan, Chair

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Africa Hands, Linda Quick

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Young Kim

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: none

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Finalize the committee review of the received progress and summative reports.

Discussion: The committee has received six progress reports and five summative reports from the 2020/2021 application cycle. The committee has graded the received five summative reports using a rubric and a five-point scale. All received summative reports indicated that projects were completed successfully and as planned. There were no concerns with respect to any of the reports. The committee chair has written up a short report that has been reviewed by the committee.

Action Item: The committee chair will forward committee report on the summative reports to the Provost's Office and the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences.

Agenda Item: Low number of applications in the last application cycle.

Discussion: The committee only received 16 applications in the most recent application cycle of which 2 applications were deemed ineligible. This is down from 25 proposals that were received in the 2021/2022 cycle, which was already down from 35 proposals in the 2020/2021 cycle. The decline in the number of submitted proposals is a matter of concern because 1) it makes teaching grants less selective as a higher percentage of received proposals get awards (this year it was 50% of eligible submissions), which may lower the quality standards for funded projects; and 2) fewer applications may result in less available funding for teaching grants over time. The committee discussed the following reasons for the steep decline in submissions:

- COVID-19 faculty fatigue due to higher demands and stress during the pandemic.
- Uncertainty about whether classroom teaching was possible or under what conditions it would be possible, as some learning activities are more difficult to convert to an online format, combined with less faculty familiarity with online teaching.
- Less awareness or familiarity of the current ECU faculty of ECU teaching grants.

The following suggestions were made to increase the number of teaching grant submissions:

- Better advertising of teaching grants, which may include some of the following:
 - Inclusion of information on teaching grants in new faculty orientation in August

- Publicize the winners and successful projects of past years in ECU News or perhaps on the TGC web page
- Inclusion of information on teaching grants in the Technology Tailgate (April 8)
- Broadening the scope of the teaching grants to more people and more different types of projects.
- Simplify the rules for applications or remove other potential barriers for submission.

Actions to Take: The committee chair will contact Wendy Creasy from OFE to see how teaching grants information could be included in information distributed by OFE. The committee should investigate and propose possibilities for additional advertising of teaching grants on departmental or college level.

Agenda Item: Review of TGC policies and guidelines.

Discussion: The committee has received several inquiries over the years from fixed-term and adjunct faculty, which indicates that there is an interest by these ECU members to apply for teaching grants. Unfortunately, under the existing rules 9-month fixed-term and part-time faculty is not eligible. Proposals by Health Sciences faculty also sometimes fail our eligibility criteria. The following suggestions have been made with respect to revising the eligibility criteria for teaching grants:

- The committee might add a provision in our eligibility rules to allow fixed-term or part-time faculty to apply for a teaching grant if they have a letter of support from their Department Chair or their Dean.
- It was noted that Health Sciences faculty have only limited options for applying for a teaching grant as there are more teaching activities that are not courses listed in the university catalog. It has been suggested that the committee may allow different rules for Health Sciences faculty give them more opportunity to apply.
- Over the years several proposals have been deemed ineligible because of formatting violations. It was proposed to add some language in the Call for Proposals document to make it clearer as to what will result in the ineligibility of a proposal. There is some lack of clarity as to whether the failure to start the narrative on page 2 would constitute a violation serious enough for ineligibility.

Actions to Take: The committee chair will consult with the Chair of the Faculty Puri Martinez about changes of eligibility criteria. The committee should seek more opinions and advice from faculty members from Health Sciences about how teaching grants could be made more relevant to them. The committee will have a formal vote on the proposed changes using a Qualtrics Survey.

Agenda Item: The committee annual report is due on May 15, 2022.

Discussion: The Faculty Senate has sent out the template for the committee annual reports. The annual report is the shared responsibility of the committee chair and the vice chair. A draft should be finished by early May so that all committee members can provide input if they wish to do so.

Actions to Take: The committee chair will coordinate the writing of the annual report with the vice chair and circulate it by early May.

Next meeting: TBA (September 2022)