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Changes in Faculty Research Committee programs

Submitted by Fred Mynard

5/9/2012

Discussion:

An update on recent changes in competitions for funds administered by the Faculty Research Committee.

Rationale:

The Faculty Research Committee reports to the senate, and the faculty, the following changes:

- 1) the Faculty Research Award competition will be split into two different competitions: Seed Award competition and Scholarly Pursuit competition. The Seed Award competition, with a maximal budget of \$10,000, will now be exclusively directed towards projects whose primary aim is to secure external funding. The new Scholarly Pursuit competition, with a maximal budget of \$5,000, intends to support fundamental research on the basis of the merit of the project, regardless of its potential for external funding.
- 2) The publication fund will no longer support page charges, off-prints and reprints. It will now support the cost of editorial services and will provide refund of submission fees upon acceptance of the paper.
- 3) A new program (TRIPS) will provide matching funds (i.e., half the cost) for travel to visit program directors at funding agencies to discuss a grant proposal.
- 4) Grant writing workshops, with one and one, program specific, mentoring are taking place this summer, supporting 13 participants. Depending on success, we anticipate this program to continue on a yearly basis.

Response:

The SEC approved the requests for motions listed on the agenda, and the Faculty Research Committee's request for discussion of recent changes in competitions for funds.

Minutes: 6/6/2012:

A Discussion of Recent Changes in Competitions for Funds Administered by the Faculty Research Committee:

Fred Mynard (COSM). The Faculty Research Award competition next year will be split into two different competitions:

a Seed Award competition that will have a budget of \$10,000 maximum, directed towards projects whose primary aim is to secure external funding; and separately there will be a competition called Scholarly Pursuit, with a smaller budget of \$5,000 maximum, whose intent will be to support projects in basic research based on the merit of the project, regardless of its potential for external funding.

Another change concerns the publication fund that so far has provided support on a first-come, first-served basis for page charges, off-prints, and reprints. This type of expense will no longer be supported, and instead these funds will now support the cost of editorial services and provide refunds for submission fees upon acceptance of the paper. This is because in some disciplines some quality journals, to cut down on frivolous submissions, have a submission fee; this shift in funding may be better than supporting page charges for journals that are at times not a very high quality.

Also, there will be a new program to provide matching funds for travel costs to visit program directors at funding agencies to discuss a grant proposal. The idea of matching funds is to cut down on people applying just to take a trip, so faculty members need to come up with half of the money and the Faculty Research Committee funds will support the other half.

Just for information, this year we funded some Grant writing workshops. This was one-on-one mentoring, and everybody was providing very positive feedback. There will be a follow-up workshop in August, and depending on

success, such workshops will be continued.

Tom Buckley (CHHS) took exception, saying that in the health sciences there are journals that are very high quality that have page charges, and the proposal is going to hurt health sciences faculty. It may be discipline specific as to where there are submission fees, because some journals that really are not very good have high submission fees, where basically if you pay the money, it gets published.

Mynard said the committee focused on precisely this problem, how to avoid supporting situations where it ends up a you-pay-we-publish proposition. So what Buckley pointed out, that maybe some disciplines might need a submission fee, is something that can be revisited