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Funding for Faculty Development, Research, and Service

Submitted by Clara Krug

4/19/2007

Question:

1. Why is the level of funding for these committees so low?
2. Why has the level of funding for the Faculty Development Committee (and perhaps the others) not changed in several years?
3. What is the source of funding for these committees?
4. How do the levels of funding for these committees at GSU compare with those at our aspirational institutions?
5. What can be done to increase the levels of funding?

Rationale:

The abysmal level of funding for initiatives related to faculty development and research (and perhaps service) affects faculty in all units.

SEC Response:

The Senate Executive Committee has decided that the original request for an agenda item to discuss this topic should, instead, be a Request for Information.

Senate Response:

Funding for Faculty Development Research and Service. “That was an RFI submitted by Clara Krug after the SEC decided it was premature to schedule her motion on the subject at today’s meeting. The money for the Development, Research, and Service Committees comes out of the Provost’s office budget. This year the Development Committee had a total of \$105,000 available in their budget, which after you subtract off for the Award for Excellence in Instruction is really about \$95,600. They had \$429,000 requested. Research had \$115,000 available, and \$265,000 requested. Service has \$55,000 available, half the other two, and only \$67,000 requested. So in all cases the dollars requested exceeded the dollars available and by up to 4 times. I can see why serving on one of these committees would be very frustrating because the number of applications far exceeds the amount available. I discussed this with Dr. Bleicken, and she did point out that one thing that was done this year to try and help matters in terms of faculty development was they had discovered that some departments had as little as \$200-\$250 available per faculty member for travel, and they added \$138,000 to the travel budget, so that each department should have \$600 per faculty member available for professional travel. I recognize that doesn’t go very far. Almost any trip of any kind of length takes more money than that. But we also know that some faculty want to travel a lot, and some faculty don’t. Another thing to recognize, too, here, at this point, is that back when we were cutting budgets for three years in a row, most departments and other things, one of the first things to go was travel funds and operational funds. We have been getting money back, but we’re not back yet where we were before they started cutting budgets, and, meanwhile, costs keep going up. So one thing that Dr. Bleicken and I have discussed and that we’re going to look into more carefully is how much money we have available for faculty development and how we compare with some of our peers in terms of those monies available. And once we get that information available, we’ll share it with the Senate.”

Attachment: [Faculty Development Proposal Committee Information](#)