COAS Multidisciplinary Faculty Scholars Award Description

The Multidisciplinary Faculty Scholars program, which was instituted by the College of Arts and Sciences in 2003, will support three to five full-time COAS faculty members as they work together on a collaborative scholarly project. It is anticipated that one group of scholars will be funded each academic year.

Competitive proposals from a group of three to five COAS full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty members for a semester-long interdisciplinary study of a particular topic (e.g., global warming, poverty, ethnic conflict, the interface of science and religion) are to be submitted to a Screening Committee. Proposals must represent faculty from at least two of the three COAS areas (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences). Faculty members who receive the award will be ineligible to participate again for seven years.

Proposals shall include a three- to five-page group proposal, as well as individual projects to be integrated into the group project. Each individual project should be described in a separate three- to five-page proposal. The group proposal should describe the topic the participants expect to examine, how they propose to do it, and what they expect as an outcome. Individuals should state their personal part in the project, how it relates to the group project, their own goal and expected outcome, how they anticipate that participation will influence their own scholarship, and in what other ways they expect to benefit from participation. No more than one faculty member from a department may participate in any group of scholars.

Proposals are due in the College of Arts and Sciences mid February. The Screening Committee will announce the award in March to support work the following fall or spring semester. The Screening Committee would normally consist of the previous award recipients. If no award was allocated the prior year, the COAS Faculty Affairs Committee will serve as the screening committee.

Criteria for Award

The following are of primary importance:

- The merit of the scholarship in the proposal
- The extent to which the group proposal and each individual proposal is well grounded in the literature, well written, and has clear goals and outcomes for the group project and for each participant’s individual project.
- The nature of the topic (wide-ranging, significant, or important)
- The degree to which the individual projects are integrated into the group project

The following are of secondary importance, but will be considered:

- The potential for impact on the faculty and students in the College of Arts and Sciences and on the surrounding community.
- The potential of the project to lead to further development of the participants’ individual scholarship, interdisciplinary scholarship, publication, and/or external grant support.
- The potential for impact on the College’s curriculum (e.g., a new interdisciplinary course
or availability of participants to give guest lectures in other courses).

- The development of an innovative product.

**Award**

- Recipients will receive $500 each for professional development. The College of Arts and Sciences will provide S&E support as needed for photocopying and other expenses.
- The College of Arts and Sciences will provide the services of a College secretary.
- Participants will receive an individual plaque, will have their names engraved on a plaque in the College Office, and will be listed on the College website.

**Obligations of the Participants**

- The participants will devote time to reading and to studying their subject matter during the semester of study. They will meet regularly, most likely weekly, to discuss their individual topics and the group topic.
- A written report describing the outcome of the interdisciplinary project will be submitted to the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences early in the semester following the period of study. The Dean will make this report available to the faculty of Arts and Sciences.
- A formal presentation is expected during the semester following the period of study. This presentation is to be open to faculty, students, and the community.
- The participants are encouraged to schedule one or two informal Brown Bag lunches during their period of study for open, informal discussion of their topic. All faculty in the College will be invited to take part in the discussion.
- Participants are highly encouraged to publish or present their work in forums appropriate to their disciplines and to seek external funding for further study. They are also encouraged to develop interdisciplinary courses or innovative products and/or to have impact on the local or regional community.
- Participants will judge the following Fall/Spring multidisciplinary scholars award proposals and select the recipients for that year.