Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Instructional Development Grant Guidelines

About

Lee Shulman, former President of the Carnegie Foundation, said that the scholarship of teaching and learning [SoTL] is defined as seeking to "render teaching public, subject to critical evaluation, and usable to others in the field." Proposals for developmental/scholarly activities will be accepted from all permanent full-time faculty members who wish to expand or further refine their teaching expertise. All awards must be utilized to participate in activities that will enhance the faculty member's ability to instruct or mentor students. This is a competitive grant program developed to help improve teaching and should focus on an innovative strategy, service or practice that can benefit the University as a whole, rather than the development of a single course. Collaborative proposals are encouraged. Any questions should be directed to Dr. Robert Pervine [3027, rpervine@murraystate.edu].

Guidelines

A successful application will propose developmental activities that promote and foster student learning through improving instructional methods and developing innovative techniques in teaching. Such activities may include integrating technology into the classroom or distance education, developing strategies to incorporate active- or problem-based learning in a course or laboratory, improving the classroom environment and information delivery mechanisms, or incorporating international and global issues into a course or curriculum. Assessing the instructional value of equipment can be difficult. If funds are sought for equipment beyond the usual scope provided by the University, college/school, and/or department, applicants must be sure to identify the specific instructional benefits to be gained.

A grant report will be required that outlines the major outcomes of the project. Faculty members that receive an award will also be asked to contribute to a forum designed to showcase specific work of recipients.

Please note that any research on human subjects will require prior approval from the MSU Institutional Review Board; any questions should be directed to Sally Mateja [smateja@murraystate.edu].

Review Process

A selection committee of faculty representatives from each college/school will consider the merit of each proposal and determine which will be funded. Faculty members are encouraged to discuss their proposals with the respective collegiate/school representative. This discussion should provide advice on how to proceed with the proposal and help ensure the representative's ability to answer any questions that may emerge in the review process. Committee members are:

George Rice – AJBCOB
Yuejin Xu – COE
Jeremy Erdmann – CHSHS
Lissa Graham – CHFA
David Gibson – JDJCSET
William Dewees – HSOA
Dana Manley – SON
Rebecca Richerson – ULIB
Hal Rice, CTLT [ex-officio]
Robert Pervine, PROV [ex-officio]

Funding

Each award will not exceed $4,000. The total number of grants awarded will depend on the quality of the applications and on the monies available. All funds must be spent by August 15, 2014 and will adhere to the University's guidelines for expenditures. The following restrictions apply:

1. Funds may be used to support faculty time during the summer. Please note that any faculty summer stipend funds will be paid during the May 16—August 14, 2014 time period and will follow University policy on extra compensation.
2. Since the funds are intended to support faculty advancement, they are not to be used to fund undergraduate or graduate student research projects.
3. Fund recipients will be required to submit a brief final report describing the activities of the grant, how funds were expended, goals were met, the overall impact of the program, and the potential sustainability of the work.

Grant Proposal Application

Grant Proposal Application—Applicants are to complete the online application form. If you would like to confirm that the form was received, contact Donna Miller, [4273, dmiller@murraystate.edu].

To apply, faculty members must produce:

1. A background statement: The addressed problem or creative effort and its significance to advance the particular area of the faculty member's scholarship.
2. Projected outcomes: A brief description of the outcomes the applicant expects to achieve and how the initial outcomes may lead to a sustainable effort over time.
3. Project design: A brief description of the design for the project.
4. Timeline: A brief statement of the applicant's current status with the work (if any) and a timeline for the major activities of the project.
5. Dissemination of findings: Plans for disseminating the findings.
6. Budget: A budget describing how award funds will be spent.

Grant Report Form

Grant Report Form—Successful applicants must complete this report form on or before October 1, 2014.

Important Dates

- Guidelines Distributed: January 2014
- Proposals Due: March 15, 2014
- Selection By: April 15, 2014
- Work: May 16—August 14, 2014