

Winter Quarter (2008) Report of the Academic Senate Grants Review Committee By Ken Griggs, Chair

Members of the Committee:

Kenneth A. Griggs (Chair, Orfalea College of Business)
Hugh Bradley (student)
Navjit K. Brar (Library)
Trevor Harding (College of Engineering)
Jim L. Gentilucci (College of Education)
Penny Bennett (College of Liberal Arts)
Sandra J. Stannard (College of Architecture and Environmental Design)
Phillip Tong (College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences)
Susan Opava (Dean, Research and Graduate Programs, Ex Officio)
Xenia Bixler (Instructional Dean, Admin, Ex Officio)
Bonnie Murphy (Exec. Dir, CP Corp., Ex Officio)

The primary work of this committee is to review and make funding recommendations for the State Faculty Support Grant and the Student Research Competition. The work of this committee is almost entirely performed during the Winter term. The following describes the committee's work for 2008.

State Faculty Support Grant (SFSG)

The committee met to review SFSG proposals on March 14th. The following table compares 2007 and 2008 proposal requests and funding

	2007	2008
Proposals	37	64
Funding Requests	\$389,524	\$697,059
Awards	21	20 (plus 3 alternates)
Funding Awarded	~\$135,000	~\$135,000

The state funding allocation is not normally known until July at the earliest. Given the current budget environment, it's not clear that past funding levels will be maintained. In addition, the current increase in junior faculty (and the accompanying increase in proposals) for the 2008 academic year made it a challenging awards process. The 2008 award consisted of 56 WTU's valued at \$87,416 and \$54,140 in minigrants. However, the committee gave Susan Opava the mandate to selectively reduce the minigrant amounts by \$6,556 to bring the total award to about \$135,000. Three alternates were chosen with a potential award value of \$25,732. The alternates will be used in the event that an awardee withdraws or additional funding becomes available. The alternates were ranked and Susan Opava was given the mandate to make and adjust the alternate awards as needed.

With the help of Susan Opava and Susan Rock, the external proposal review process was streamlined by

1. Eliminating the forms that were sent to reviewers. This year the reviews were done with a simple eMail template. Reviewer response and turnaround has greatly improved.
2. The required number of reviewers was reduced from five to three.
3. A proposal upload web site was created on a computer located in the Office of Research and Graduate Programs Office but the site needs to be tested to make it robust and secure.

Student Research Competition (SRC)

1. Awareness of the SRC was increased via a mass email to faculty
2. The number of proposals increased from 14 (2007) to 23 (2008)
3. The committee reviewed SRC presentations on Saturday, March 1st from 8:45 to 3:00 in room 111 at the OCOB. Ten presentations were accepted for travel funding to the final competition held on May 2 - 3 at CSU East Bay.