ABAC Faculty Enrichment Fund

The objective of the ABAC Faculty Enrichment Fund is to increase the numbers and proportion of faculty members conducting scholarship or engaging in other creative activities, particularly those which engage ABAC students in undergraduate research, consistent with our Destination ABAC goals.

Funds have been committed to provide $30,000 for the 2015-2016 school year to provide awards to ABAC faculty members. Awards will be made on a competitive basis for projects to be accomplished in one calendar year. Additionally, the funds can be used for purchase of supplies or travel for the purpose of conducting or disseminating research.

**Operation and Management of the Program:**
The program will be directed by the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, who will appoint a small review committee of senior faculty members representing the six Schools to review proposals and make recommendations for funding. Ad hoc reviewers with special expertise will be utilized where appropriate. *Review criteria will be structured to favor applicants from disciplines without access to substantial start-up or extramural funding opportunities.*

Each application should contain:

1. **Cover Page.**
2. **Description of Proposed Activities** (up to 5 pages). This section should describe the proposed research or creative activity in sufficient detail to inform non-specialists. It should include the following:
   a. A description of how the proposed activity will make the applicant more competitive for extramural funding or how it will make the applicant’s work more visible off-campus.
   b. If applicable, a description of how this project will benefit undergraduate research at ABAC.
   c. A timeline for the proposed activities also should be included. It is expected that by the end of the funding period, the project should result in submission of a grant proposal or equivalent activity for the discipline.
3. **Itemized Budget.** Appropriate budget categories include other personnel (such as student research assistants), equipment, supplies, travel (including accommodations, allowable daily costs, and registration fees), and publication costs. All items should be explained in a short budget justification.
4. **Statement of Other Available Support.** Applicants should provide information about pending support from internal and external funding sources.
5. **Biosketch** (limited to 2 pages). May be in any format but must include education, publications, and funding history (if any).

The application deadline is October 1, and awards will be announced by October 15, with funding beginning immediately thereafter. Awards will be one year in duration; they are extendable (on a no-cost basis) at the discretion of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. A one page report will be required at the end of the funding period describing activities conducted, grant proposals submitted, presentations or performances delivered, etc.

Awards for proposals can range from very modest sums ($2000) to support a highly specific limited need to $10,000 to support a more comprehensive design of study and work. Faculty should understand that limits to resources and the wish of the Committee to provide funds for the largest possible number of deserving proposals make it unlikely that proposals requesting more than $10,000 will be supported beyond that limit.

**Criteria for Evaluation**

In making awards, the committee will first consider the excellence of the faculty development proposals. When proposals are comparably meritorious, and when there are insufficient funds to support all meritorious proposals, funds will be awarded on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Proposals will be assessed on their merit. A proposal for scholarly research or creative work will be evaluated relative to the contribution that the project may make to its respective field. When requests include support for travel to advance collaborative work with someone from another institution, specific information about the ways in which this travel will advance the scholarly research or creative work needs to be fully specified.
2. Only tenured or tenure-track faculty will be considered for awards.
3. Proposals from faculty who have not recently received research grants will be considered more favorably than faculty who have recently been granted faculty research money.
4. Applications from faculty who have, in the past, used grant money effectively for the pursuit of scholarly or creative work will be considered in a more favorable light than applications from those who have received grants but who have not yet productively employed them.
5. Applications from faculty who will not be under employment contract to ABAC during the whole of the grant period will not be considered.