**Faculty Grants Committee Annual Report to Senate**

**2015-2016**

August 22, 2016

**From:** Christi Edge and Alex Ruuska, Co-Chairs, Faculty Grants Committee

**To:** Rachel Nye, Chair, Academic Senate

The primary function of the Faculty Grants Committee (FGC) is to evaluate and recommend funding for grant proposals from the following funding programs:

* [Faculty Grant Program](https://www.nmu.edu/grantsandcontracts/node/58)
* [Peter White Scholar](https://www.nmu.edu/grantsandcontracts/node/76)
* [Charles C. Spooner Student Research](https://www.nmu.edu/grantsandcontracts/node/94)
* [Instructional Improvement and Curriculum Development](https://www.nmu.edu/grantsandcontracts/node/91)

The variety of internal grant applications received throughout this academic year demonstrated a solid desire among faculty and students to continually improve quality of academic programs through research and other creative activities that collectively serve to ensure NMU’s heritage of being a high-touch, high-tech, high-quality center for academic excellence. The aim of internal grant proposals includes, but is not limited to, integrating innovative technologies into the classroom to facilitate student success, ensuring environmental sustainability within and beyond our local community, and promoting global involvement through service learning and a dedication to life-long learning.

During the 2015-2016 academic year the FGC met six (6) times and evaluated 64 grant applications. The following comprises the annual report of FGC activities.

FGC activity for Fall 2015 included:

1. On October 2, 2015, the FGC met to review applications for the Winter 2016 Reassigned Time Awards (RTA). A quorum was present. Sixteen (16) grant applications were received. One application was deemed ineligible due to previous awards. Committee members Christi Edge, Yu Liu, Cheryl Reed, and Josh Sharp did not vote on RTA rankings, as they had submitted RTA proposals. Funding was available for the top 11 ranked proposals. The rankings were as follows:

**Reassigned Time Award Rankings for Winter 2016**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Faculty Member | School | Project Title | Ranking |
| Josh Sharp | Department of Biology | “Relationship between Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Nasal Colonization and Vaccination with a Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine in Adults” | 1 |
| Yu Liu | Department of Chemistry | “Construct Supramolecular Catalyst with a New Approach: Aromatic Donor-Acceptor Interaction” | 2 |
| Sarah Mittlefehldt | Earth, Environment, and Geographical Sciences Department | “The Paradox of Local Power, A History of Homegrown Energy” | 3 tie |
| **Christi Edge** | **School of Leadership, Education and Public Service** | **“Becoming Teachers in Field-Based Methods Courses: A Phenomenological Study”** | 3 tie |
| Brandon Canfield | Department of Chemistry | “Secondary Metabolite Characterization in Thimbleberry: Publication of Initial Results” | 4 |
| Elizabeth Monske | Department of English | “Writing and Composing in the Age of MOOCS” | 5 |
| **Yan Ciupak** | **Department of Sociology and Anthropology** | **“Chinese Higher Education and Actionable Research”** | 6 |
| Cheryl Reed | Department of English | “Map of Her Escape: A Novel” | 7 |
| Jennifer Howard | Department of English | “You are on Mars: Stories” | 8 |
| Wendy Farkas | Department of English | “Evaluating A Transitional Reading Program” | 9 |
| Robert Goodrich | Department of History | “Development of “Reaching to the Past” Role Playing Pedagogy- Democracy in Crisis-Germany 1929-1932” | 10 |
| **Derek Anderson** | **School of Leadership, Education and Public Service** | **“Rubric Norming with Pre-Service Elementary Teachers”** | 11 |
| Matthew Van Grinsven | Earth, Environment, and Geographical Sciences Department | “Influence of Soil Temperature and Water Table on Black Ash Wetland Gaseous Soil Carbon Efflux, and Response to a Simulated Emerald Ash Borer Disturbance” | 12 |
| Gabriel Noah Brahm | Department of English | “Sublimated Anti-Semitism: Israel in Theory” | 13 |
| Z.Z. Lehmberg | Department of English | “Winter Solstice: A Memoir” | 14 |
| Jaspal Singh | Department of English | “Narrating the new nation: South African Indian Writing” | 15 |

1. Also on October 2, 2015, the FGC met to review applications for the Fall 2016 Spooner Grant Awards. A quorum was present. Eight (8) student applications were received. All were deemed eligible/fundable. Funding was available for applications ranked 1-3. The rankings were as follows:

**Spooner Rankings for Fall 2016**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Project Title** | **Ranking** |
| Taylor Sharp | Department of Chemistry | Identification and Quantification by Solid-Phase Microextraction and Gas Chromatography Mass Spectometry (SPME/GC\_MS) | 1 |
| Andrew Rankin | Department of Biology | Molecular Evolution of the American Pika (Ochotono princeps): in consideration of adaptive mutant substitutions in an alpine mammal | 2 |
| Andrew Ernst | Exercise Science | “7 Weeks of Yoga Training and Its Effects on Flexibility, Rate of Force Development, and Peak Power in Olympic Weightlifters | 3 |
| Daniel Brogren | Department of Biology | “Utilizing a Bacterial Two-Hybrid Assay to Identify Novel Transcription Factors in Pseudomonas aeruginosa” | 4 |
| Nicole Pittoors | Department of Biology | Maternal and paternal influences on Lytechinus variegatus larvae survival and size under varying water conditions | 5 |
| Travis Moe | Department of Biology | Sub-lethal and lethal effects of three common neon: cotinoid insecticides on American bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana) tadpoles | 6 |
| Carol Kessel | Department of Biology | Molecular Subtyping of Staphylococcus Aureus Isolates from the UP Community for the Presence of Toxin-Encoding Genes | 7 |
| Kayla Kurzawa | Department of Biology | Mapping anatomical differences in TUF1 protein expression in the brains of Syrian hamsters | 8 |

1. On November 13, 2015 the FGC met to review applications for the 2016 Faculty Grants applications. Eleven (11) applications were submitted. Each application was deemed fundable. The base budget available for Faculty Grant Awards was 65,000. The rankings were as follows:

**Faculty Grants Rankings**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Applicant** | **Department** | **Title** | **Amount** | **Ranking** |
| Erich N. Ottem, Ph.D. | Biology | “Assessing Retrograde Transport Mechanisms in a Transgenic Mouse Model that Mimics the Pathology Associated with Amyotropic Lateral Sclerosis” | $6,877 | 1 |
| Eugene Wickenheiser | Chemistry | “Synthesis and Assessment of New MRI Cancer Contrast Agents” | $7,000 | 2 |
| Dr. Marguerite Moore, Ph.D., AT, ITAT | Health and Human Performance | “An Assessment of Prefrontal Cortex (De)Activity Following Concussion in Collegiate Athletes: A Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Study (1 of 2)” | $7,000 | 3 |
| Josh Carlson | Psychology | “An Assessment of Prefrontal Cortex (De)Activity Following Concussion in Collegiate Athletes: A Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Study (2 of 2)” | $7,000 | 4 |
| J. Marek Haltof | English | “Polish National Cinema. Second Edition” | $7,000 | 5 |
| Valerie L. Hedges Ph.D. | Biology | “Determination of Sex Differences in Tuf1 Protein Expression and Function in Syrian Hamsters” | $7,000 | 6 |
| Professor Russell R. W. Prather | English | “The Cut Worm Forgives the Plow: New Visual Art Work Exhibitions” | $7,000 | 7 |
| Dr. Caroline Zoe Krzakowski | English | “The Work of Diplomacy in British Fiction and Film 1935-1970” | $7,000 | 8 |
| Matthew Gavin Frank | English | “Plutarch’s Influence on the Contemporary American Essay” | $7,000 | 9 |
| Dr. Gabriel Brahm | English | “Israel in Theory: The Jewish State and the Cultural Left” | $7,000 | 10 |
| Jaspal K. Singh | English | “South African Indian Literature in Post-Apartheid South Africa” | $6,500 | 11 |

Faculty Grants Committee (FGC) activity for Winter 2016 includes:

1. On February 19th, 2016 the FGC met to review applications for the Fall 2016 Reassigned Time Awards. A quorum was present. Twelve (12 ) applications were received; ten (10) were deemed fundable/eligible, and two were deemed ineligible because the faculty failed to submit reports of previously funded RTAs. Rankings included:

**Reassigned Time Award Rankings for Fall 2016**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Faculty Member** | **School** | **Project Title** | **Ranking** |
| Larkin | English | Reading in the Postgenomic Age | 1 |
| Van Grinsven | EEGS | A Regional Synthesis of Linkages Between Soil Temperature, Water Table and Gaseous Soil-Carbon Emissions in Black Ash Wetlands and their Responses to a Simulated Emerald Ash Borer Disturbance | 2 |
| McFawn | English | Keel: A Novel | 3 |
| Haltof | English | Polish National Cinema. Second Edition | 4 |
| May | English | Stitches in Time | 5 |
| Waters | Criminal Justice | Low Self-Control, Opportunity, and Risky Lifestyles: Risk Factors for Alcohol and  Drug Incapacitation Rape on a Midwestern University Campus | 6 |
| Legg | EEGS | Building Health Futures: Water Quality, Policy, and Sustainable Development in the Lake Victoria Region, Uganda: Maintaining an International Memorandum of Understanding among Partnering Institutions in the European Union and East Africa and Michigan | 7 |
| Freier | Library, AIS | Librarians as Detectives in Mystery Fiction, 1970-2016 | 8 |
| Hamilton | English | Peregrinations: Walking in American Literature | 9 |
| Tremethick | HHP | The Long Term Effects of Short Term Faculty Led Study Abroad Programs in Honduras | 10 |
| Brahm | English | Sublimated Anti-Semitism:  Jew-Hatred and the Jewish State | 11 |
| Singh | English | Narrating the New Nation: South African Indian Writing | 12 |

1. On February 19th, 2016 the FGC also met to review applications for the Winter 2016 Spooner Grant Awards. A quorum was present. Eight (8) student applications were submitted; each were deemed eligible. Funding was available for applications ranked 1-3. The rankings included:

**Spooner Rankings for Winter 2016**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | | **Project Title** | | **Ranking** |
| Graeff | Biology | | Vegetation, Water Chemistry and Spatial Characteristics of Fen Landforms in a Patterned Peatland at Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Upper Michigan | | 1 |
| Symbal | Biology | | Effect of sublethal lampricide 3 trifluoromethyl-4-nytrophenol (TFM), exposure on growth and energetics of juvenile lake sturgeon | | 2 |
| Wijewardena | Biology | | Comparative phylgeography and diversity of the fleas of American pikas in North America’s Intermountain West | | 3 |
| Susco | Biology | | Size Group Interaction and Growth Compensation in Hatchery-Raised *Acipenser fulveceus* | | 4 tie |
| Moe | Biology | | Sub-lethal and lethal effects imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid insecticide, on Northern Leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) tadpoles | | 4 tie |
| Pittoors | | Biology/Ecology Emphasis | | Maternal and Paternal Influences on *Lytechinus variegatus* larvae survival and size under varying water conditions | 5 |
| Richter | | Biology | | Activity Times of Mottled Sculpin (*Cottus* *bairdi*) and Longnose Dace (*Rhinicthys cataractae)* | 6 |
| Peterson | | Fine Arts | | Augmented Reality Comic Exhibit | 7 |

1. On April 1, 2016, the FGC met to review applications for the Peter White Awards. A quorum was present. Two (2) applications were received; each was deemed eligible. The project ranked first was awarded. Rankings included:

**Peter White Award**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant | Department | Project Title | Amount Requested | Ranking |
| Leslie Larkin | English | “Reading in the Postgenomic Age” | $17,500 | 1 |
| James McCommons | English | “A Land Apart: Life and Explorations in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, a narrative, non-fiction book of 90,000 words” | $17,500 | 2 |

1. On April 1, 2016, the FGC also met to review applications for the Summer 2016 Spooner Awards. A quorum was present. Two (2) student applications were received, and each were deemed eligible. Projects ranked 1-2 were funded. Rankings included:

**Spooner Rankings for Summer 2016**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant | Department | Project Title | Amount Requested | Ranking |
| Douglas Hardy & Rachel Simpson | Biology | “Individual variability in neuropeptide presence with regard to stress in brook trout” | $500 | 1 |
| Hannah Hawkins | Health and Human Performance | “Head Impact on the Brain in College-Aged Divers” | $500 | 2 |

1. On April 15, 2016 the FGC met to review applications for the Instructional Improvement Grant. A quorum was present. Three (3) Instructional Improvement applications were received; each was deemed eligible. The application ranked first was funded. Rankings included:

**Instructional Improvement Grant**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant | Department | Title | Amount Requested | Ranking |
| Delpier, Terry | Nursing | “Poverty Simulation: An Interprofessional Experience” | $3,000 |  |
| Bell, Carol | Mathematics and Computer Science | “Developing Geometry Units for MA331” | $3,000 |  |
| Foster, Tara | Modern Languages and Literatures | “Culture as the Core in FR 101: Introductory French” | $3,000 |  |

1. On April 15, 2016 the FGC also met to review applications for the Curriculum Development Grant. A quorum was present. Two (2) Curriculum Development applications were received; each was deemed eligible. The application ranked first was funded. Rankings included:

**Curriculum Development Grant**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant | Department | Title | Amount Requested | Ranking |
| Barnsley, Amy | Mathematics and Computer Science | “Online Beginning Algebra: Quality Matters for All Students” | $2,971 |  |
| Marquardson, Jim & Gomillion, David | Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems;  Business | “Update of Cyber Defense Curriculum to Meet New Department of Homeland Security Standards” | $6,000 |  |

1. On April 15, the FGC also nominated and voted in Co-chairs for the 2016-2017 academic year. Results included Josh Carlson and Josh Sharp as 2016-2017 FGC Co-Chairs.

Annual FGC report respectfully submitted to Academic Senate,

Christi Edge and Alex Ruuska,

Co-Chairs, Faculty Grants Committee