
THE COLLEGE OF
WOOSTER

TO: Faculty of The College of Wooster

FROM: Grant H. Cornwell, President



DATE: December 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Faculty & Curriculum Development Opportunities

One of the sources of our strength at The College of Wooster is the extensive support we can provide for faculty across the spectrum of professional development in teaching, scholarship, and research. Continuing faculty are familiar with this annual memo inviting them to submit proposals for funding through the Hewlett-Mellon Fund for Institutional Renewal and/or the Hales Fund. For new faculty, this memo describes the funding opportunities, each application process, and the review of and notification for funding of proposals.

Hewlett-Mellon Fund for Institutional Renewal

The Hewlett-Mellon Presidential Discretionary Fund for Institutional Renewal is a wonderful program funded in 1992 by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to endow a presidential discretionary fund for faculty and curriculum development and institutional self-renewal. The foundations outlined possible uses of the endowment: faculty and curriculum development, instructional methods, staff development, management improvement, planning and evaluation studies, experimentation, program initiation, and response to special opportunities not funded in the normal budget.

Proposals are welcome from individuals, departments, and programs that promise innovations in any area central to our core mission. Preference will be given to those projects which seek to advance one or more of the strategic initiatives as described in the College's Strategic Framework:

- ***Wooster's Independent Study Program:*** Building on the strengths of our Independent Study program, we seek to develop further a distinctive, integrated, and comprehensive approach to strengthening our students' skills, including oral and written communication skills, research sophistication, and the

application of technologies. Proposals that engage resources available through CoRE and APEX are especially welcome.

- ***Diversity and Global Engagement:*** We seek to develop further our educational approach to diversity and global engagement and identify new opportunities to increase our students' intercultural awareness and capacities for responsible global citizenship. Projects that address the campus climate for diversity are especially encouraged.
- ***APEX: Advising, Planning and Experiential Learning:*** We seek to build upon the strong student-faculty and student-staff relationships that occur at Wooster to develop a distinctive program, uniquely Wooster's, based on the principles of Developmental Advising, which will encourage students to develop a clear sense of purpose in their educational program. As part of this effort, we seek to increase opportunities for students to connect theory and practice through campus life and "real world" projects and experiences that strengthen the quality of student learning.
- ***Community of Learners:*** We seek to articulate a philosophy of campus life in which we make explicit our beliefs about how living and learning together advances our mission. This philosophy will guide our student development programs and housing strategies. In addition, we will deepen the campus' internalization of *The Wooster Ethic*, making it the reference point for guiding judgment and behavior in our Community.

Please note: All proposals requiring the acquisition of technology should be developed in consultation with Jon Breitenbucher, Instructional Technology Specialist. Also, for technology requests, please indicate whether the project will be completed within a discrete timeframe, or whether it will be a programmatic addition requiring the technology to be replaced on a planned cycle.

Taking into account commitments from the Hewlett-Mellon account that carry forward from previous years, we will be able to support approximately \$120,000 of new initiatives in this round of funding. Proposals for use of the Hewlett-Mellon Fund should: describe the project; present a budget for the activity; make the case of how funding will deepen or broaden our core mission of liberal inquiry, teaching, and learning; indicate whether the project can be completed in a fixed period (1, 2, or 3 years) or must instead become a continuing part of the College's operating budget following the grant period; and outline a means of evaluation of the success of the project.

Hales Fund

Upon the retirement of President Hales in 2007, the Board of Trustees honored him by establishing the Hales President's Discretionary Fund. It is established with the stipulation that the President use it to support projects that will further the mission of the College. In my judgment, there is no better place to invest these resources than in the faculty. Hence, I intend to continue to use the Hales Fund to enhance the intellectual life of the College and support innovative, interdisciplinary faculty development by supporting an interdisciplinary group of faculty to study together over the course of the academic year and be funded to engage in collaborative field study the following summer. The program will have the following dimensions:

- The core activity will be an interdisciplinary faculty reading group. The group will meet once a month throughout the year to discuss readings that constitute a syllabus of the group's own design around a theme chosen in advance. The group meets on Friday afternoons at the President's Home, and I intend to continue with this practice in future years;
- The study group will have the opportunity to invite to campus an author, scholar, or researcher whose work they have been studying to be able to engage in conversation about the works or issues being explored;
- The study group will have the opportunity collaboratively to plan and pursue a research field experience to bring experiential context and texture to the work or issues being studied;
- Upon their return from the field study, the group will plan to share its collective experience with the campus in some way. Further, each member will revise an existing course or develop a new one to enrich the Wooster curriculum with the advances accomplished as a result of the study project. Preference will be given to proposals connected to the development of an FYS course and themes that will help to shape the Wooster Forum;
- In the fall following the project, the group will submit a report assessing the institutional value and outcomes of their collective endeavor and offer suggestions for future groups on how best to undertake these projects.

Hales Fund proposals should address the following questions:

- What is the proposed topic, issue, work, or theme to be studied?
- Why is the topic, issue, work, or theme of critical importance at this historical juncture, both with regard to its relevance for the College and our academic program and with regard to the larger world we are preparing our students to engage?

- What is the general and tentative plan for field study associated with the project?
The specific nature of the field study will be developed each year by the group of faculty undertaking the study. Details will grow out of the group's research and be dependent on the budget available.
- How will the study enrich liberal education at The College of Wooster?
Proposals should include an assessment plan.

Total funds available for Hales Fund projects for 2013-2014 are \$45,000. Upon the selection of the project proposal, the submitters will issue an open call to faculty for participation. There is a good chance that participation in this program each year will be self-limiting due to the topic chosen and the time commitment required. If it becomes necessary to select participants from among a large number of applicants, the process for this will be devised as needed.

Submitting a Proposal

Proposals for either Hewlett-Mellon or Hales Fund support should be submitted to my office (either in hard copy or electronically) no later than MARCH 1, 2013. I will then ask the Provost to consult with EPC and the academic deans in reviewing the proposals and making recommendations to me. Notifications to applicants regarding funding decisions will be completed before the close of the spring semester.

These opportunities distinguish The College of Wooster. I am both proud and grateful to be serving a college with the capacity and will to invest in the excellence of our mission in the ways we can.

Please feel welcome to write with any questions or comments.